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Little Lives  
of  
Great Men

LINCOLN

THE MAN OF THE PEOPLE

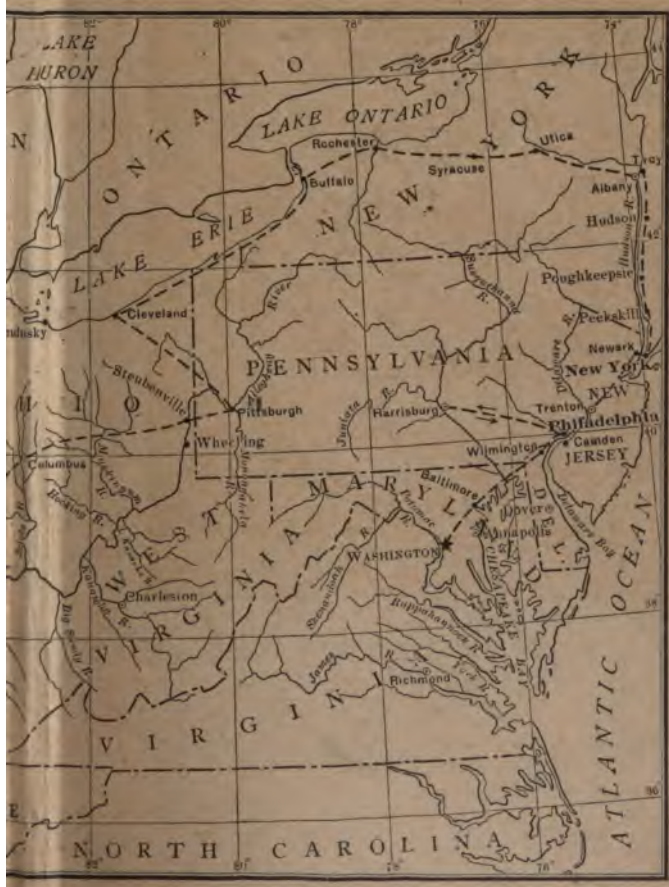
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William H. Mace



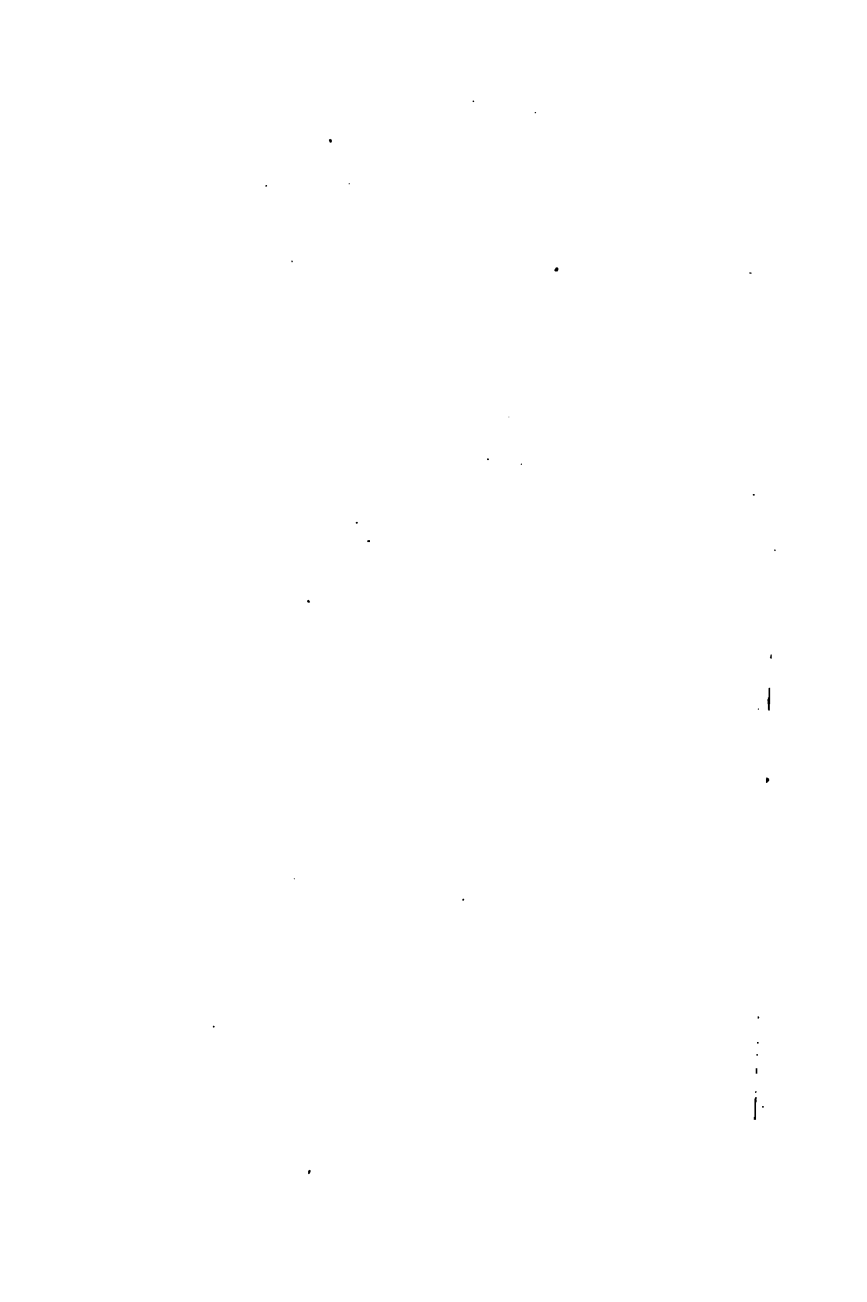
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ABRAHAM LINCOLN

*From a rare photograph taken by Alexander Hesler in Chicago, 1860,  
and loaned by the Chicago Photo-Gravure Company,  
who own the original*

*For M*

Little Lives of Great Men

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# LINCOLN

## THE MAN OF THE PEOPLE

By

WILLIAM H. MACE

*Professor of History in Syracuse University;  
Author of "Methods in History,"  
"School History of the United States,"  
and "Stories of Heroism,"*

WITH

4 HALF-TONE ILLUSTRATIONS FROM  
PHOTOGRAPHS AND 58 PICTURES BY  
HOMER W. COLBY



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*To the memory of*  
IRA MACE AND JOHN DODSON  
*two admirers of*  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN



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## The Preface

THE story of Lincoln's life appeals to young and old and to rich and poor. Deeper poverty and denser ignorance seldom fall to the lot of a great man. The hard yet cheerful struggle against these twin difficulties makes a tale bordering on the marvelous. With wolf-like ferocity they dogged his footsteps for more than half his life. He conquered ignorance with Spelling Book, Grammar, and Blackstone. He won a victory over poverty by harder fighting and longer years of toil. This struggle left its marks.

The earlier years of his rough-and-tumble life were a rich storehouse wherein he laid up strength of muscle and steadiness of nerve that answered him well in the exhausting battles of political campaigns or in the more trying days of Civil War. The struggle with poverty developed a rugged honesty most refreshing in the politician. Lying by the evening fire, or sitting with his heels higher than his head, at the noon hour, or perched upon a stump while his horses rested from plowing, he read in quiet his favorite

books, and as he read he thought. By this means he developed an intellectual acumen, a solidity of reasoning, and an accuracy and beauty of diction that made him the peer of the great men he met later, and gave him the power to produce state papers that have no equal in political literature.

The story of his life is both dramatic and pathetic. It takes hold on the children of toil and the children of wealth. It rouses hope in the child of poverty, and excites admiration in the child of the well to do.

Lincoln was endowed with a spirit of kindness akin to that of the Man of Galilee. It made him the willing advocate of widow and orphan. Bubbling with fun and humor, it overflowed in stories that made a backwoods crowd hang on his words or appealed to such a judge on the bench as Davis. It made it possible for him to treat Douglas with unfailing courtesy, and enabled him to carry an undying hatred of slavery without hating the slaveholder. It made him long suffering in dealing with politicians and army officers and led him to mourn alike for Federal and Confederate dead. It was

manifested in an affection for the common soldier that made him the idol of the army, and caused thousands of men in all walks of life to weep when he was assassinated.

Nowhere in the story of Lincoln has the writer essayed to teach a lesson. He does not believe in much moralizing, but believes rather in allowing the life itself to teach its own lessons.

W. H. MACE.

*Syracuse University,*  
*October, 1912.*



*Medal in memory of Abraham Lincoln  
presented to Mrs. Lincoln by the French*





*Medal in memory of Abraham Lincoln  
presented to Mrs. Lincoln by the French*







THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL AT HODGENVILLE

*The granite building incloses the log cabin in which Lincoln was born. The memorial fund was contributed by rich and poor in both the North and the South*

# LINCOLN

## *THE MAN OF THE PEOPLE*

### His "Old Kentucky Home"

**T**HE parents of Abraham Lincoln lived in Kentucky, having moved to that state from Virginia. His father's people came from New England. The mother was Nancy Hanks Lincoln. She was tall, dark-haired, and dignified. She was a woman full of pleasant ways and kindly deeds, and was a person to be loved. She had been taught to read her Bible, a thing that raised her above her neighbors and caused them to look up to her, for Kentucky was then a new state, and books were few and schools were scarce.

Thomas Lincoln, the father, did not know how to read, but his wife taught him

to make the letters that spelled his name  
The Lincolns were poor, so poor that the



From "Stories of Heroism," by Wm. H. Mace

*The birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, Hodgenville, Kentucky.  
The window was added by later occupants. The cabin  
is now inclosed by a memorial building of granite*

probably thought very little about it  
They lived in a cabin. It had but one  
room, no windows, and no floor but the  
hard earth. Here, in the midst of pov  
erty, our hero was born, February 12, 1809

In after years Lincoln did not like to  
talk about those days of poverty. Never  
theless, to little Abe this home among th  
trees, with the neighbors far away, was no  
without its good fortune. He had an only  
sister a bit older than himself to play

with; but these two children had a wonderful playground: the great deep, dark forests of their neighborhood. Here they were free to roam about to their hearts' content.

Near by flowed a spring, in the bright waters of which they saw their own faces, and from which they took many a cooling drink by kneeling on the ground or by dipping up the water in the gourds they had raised.

Knob Creek ran near their cabin home, and in its quiet "holes" of water the children often saw fish, which sometimes made them a good meal.

On the edge of the clearing, where the giant Kentucky hills lifted their tall tops, the children wandered to pick the berries for their humble table. In the autumn they were kept busy gathering the brown nuts that came tumbling down from the trees.

Years afterwards, Lincoln was asked what he remembered about the War of 1812, then going on between the United

States and England. He replied: "Nothing but this. I had been fishing one day



*Rock Spring, on the farm where Lincoln was born*

and caught a little fish which I was taking home. I met a soldier in the road, and, having been always told at home that we must be good to the soldiers, I gave him my fish."

This picture gives us a glimpse into the Lincoln household and shows us what teachings were going on there.

From his good mother little Abe learned how to spell, and so quick and bright was he that when a strolling schoolmaster began a school, to which boys and girls in

their teens went, they were surprised to see Abe move up to the head of the class and stay there.

In that early day preachers and churches were as scarce as teachers and schools. But to the village, three miles from the Lincoln home, there sometimes came a preacher. Then all the people, for miles and miles around, went to hear him preach. After these meetings little Abe, then but five years old, went home, mounted a stool, and imitated the minister in all those ways that strike a boyish imagination.

In after years, when Lincoln sat in the White House, a friend one day said to him: "How would you like, when the war is over, to visit your old home in Kentucky?"

"I would like it very much," answered President Lincoln. "I remember that old home very well. Our farm was composed of three fields. It lay in the valley surrounded by high hills and deep gorges. Sometimes when there came a big rain

in the hills the water would come down through the gorges and spread all over the farm."

### Frontier Life in Indiana

When little Abe reached the age of seven, in the very year that Indiana became a state, Thomas Lincoln moved across the Ohio River.

This trip was a big event in the life of this slowly budding boy. As they journeyed along, new sights and sounds met eye and ear. The forests seemed to grow greater. They were peopled with birds and beasts, and in larger numbers than they had known in their old home. The hills grew higher and the roads steeper as they came nearer the river.

How beautiful the Ohio! To the minds of these children, so deep and so wide!

When they had crossed the great stream that seemed to the children like a sea, they hired a wagon to haul their goods. How were they to make their way through

the thick forests, sixteen miles from the river? Trees and bushes had to be cut down in order to make a road. The boy was too free and too happy to feel sad at leaving the old Kentucky home, or to be frightened at starting a new home in the Indiana woods.

The Lincolns finally came to the place where their home was to be. It was one mile and a half from what is now Gentryville, in Spencer County. Here there was plenty to do. The boy helped his father make a "half-faced camp," as the settlers called such buildings. It was fourteen feet square, with only three walls and no chimney. The fourth side was left open to the weather, to allow persons to pass in and out, and to permit a fire. This "shack," as it would be called to-day, had a rude covering for a roof. The hard earth furnished a floor.

In the days of warm sunshine which belong to southern Indiana, this camp did very well, but when the cold and snow of winter came, it was indeed a poor sort of a

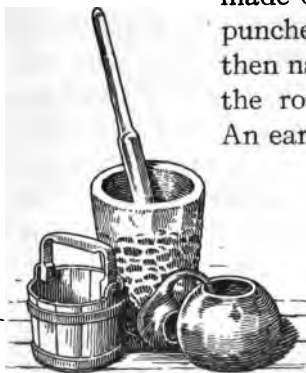


house. Little Abe and his ax were busy keeping the fire burning brightly.

But he had other duties; there was a clearing to make. The trees had to be cut down, trimmed, and then cut into logs so they could be rolled together in great piles and burned. The ground so cleared was planted in the spring, the larger part in corn.

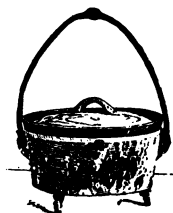
When the corn grew ripe it was tried on a "gritter." This was a rude affair made of a piece of flat tin punched full of holes, and then nailed to a board with the rough side turned up. An ear of corn was rubbed

over the gritter until the grains had been rubbed down to the cob. Thus did the Lincolns probably first obtain fresh "corn dodger," baked from the meal



*Hominy mortar, gourds, and  
pail, used by pioneers in  
Lincoln's time*

obtained in this rude way. But when the corn grew drier, so that it could be shelled, little Abe was put astride a horse to carry a bagful to mill, seven miles through the thick woods. After reaching there, he had to wait his turn. When his time came, the miller poured the corn into the hopper, and then turned the crank until it was ground out. After the people grew in numbers, Abe went to a "horse mill," where his horse furnished the power that turned the crank. When the corn was ground Abe once more mounted his horse, upon the bag of meal, and rode home.



*A Dutch oven*

At home, his mother baked fresh corn bread in an old Dutch oven, or in a skillet. Perhaps, to give Abe and his sister a treat, she baked a "johnnycake." This sort of bread was baked on a smooth board, before a red-hot fire.

In the meantime, Thomas Lincoln had been busy cutting down trees and cutting

off logs, to make a real cabin. This house contained but one room and a loft, up to which the future President climbed on pegs driven into the wall. In the corner of the loft was little Abe's bed. It was a pile of leaves. The cabin had no doors to shut out the cold and rain. The windows were without glass, and the earth again furnished a floor for the cabin.

The furniture was very rude. Thomas Lincoln and his son made it with whatever tools they had. The table and chairs were made of rough slabs of wood, split from trees, with the top smoothed off. The bedstead was a frame of poles held up by two outer posts, the ends made firm by driving poles into auger holes that had been bored into the wall of the cabin. The coverings for this bed were the skins of bear and deer which the father had brought down in the forest with his rifle.

In this lowly home the sad, sweet-faced mother taught her boy how to read and write. He was now eight years old, and was a large boy for his age. The mother

must have caught some signs of the brightness of mind he was afterwards to show. There was something about the boy to attract people. Even at this early



From "Stories of Herosm," by Wm. H. Mace

*The grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln*

age he showed unusual kindness of heart and great sympathy with anything he found suffering.

Shortly after the new cabin was finished, friends and relatives of the Lincolns from Kentucky moved to Indiana, and some of them camped in the old "shack." Very soon there came some kind of sickness into the Pigeon Creek Settlement, as Lincoln's

long, for the new mother took hold of things in earnest and soon had as good clothes on Abraham and his sister as upon the others.



*Lincoln's stepmother,  
Sarah Bush Lincoln,  
at the age of seventy-six*

Thomas Lincoln was stirred by the example of his new wife, and soon a door was hung, a floor was laid, and windows were provided for the cabin. Prospects brightened, and contentment came to smile on that cabin in the woods.

## Lincoln at School

Mrs. Lincoln very soon saw that Abraham was a child of unusual ability. She learned to love the great, awkward boy for his kind and gentle nature. She encouraged him in every way she could to study and improve himself.

# Subtraction of Long Measure

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{L M \& P} \\ 47-1-3-10 \\ 44 \quad 2 \quad 5 \quad 16 \\ \hline 21-1-5-24 \\ 11-1-0-0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Sub} \\ 41 \quad 7 \quad 8 \\ 48-0-6-2 \\ 12-0-2-1 \\ \hline 46 \quad 0 \quad 10 \quad 1 \\ 48-0-1-2 \end{array}$$

# of Land Measure

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{AR P} \\ 12-1-10 \\ 5-3-17 \\ \hline 6-1-33 \\ 12-1-10 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{AR P} \\ 17-9-17 \\ 12-3-23 \\ \hline 4-3-54 \\ 17 \quad 2 \quad 17 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{AR P} \\ 28-1-7 \\ 19-1-29 \\ \hline 8-2-79 \\ 28 \quad 1-7 \end{array}$$

# of Dry Measure

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{b B P} \\ 14-2-1 \\ 10-9-3 \\ \hline 2-0-2 \\ 17-2-1 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{b b} \\ 40-1-2 \\ 16-5-1 \\ \hline 23-32-1 \\ 40-1-2 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{q B P} \\ 19-1-1 \\ 12-7-2 \\ \hline 6-1-3 \\ 19-1-1 \end{array}$$

Abraham Lincoln  
his hand and pen.  
he will be good but  
god grows when

$$\begin{array}{r} 241 \\ 12 \\ \hline 253 \end{array}$$

A leaf from Lincoln's exercise book

Abraham studied reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic in a schoolhouse built by the neighbors. But the boys of this school were bent upon having fun. They wrestled, threw weights, and often indulged in fisticuffs. Abraham loved to learn, but he also loved all outdoor sports, except fighting. He never began a quarrel, and he permitted no one to pick a quarrel with him. Frequently the boys chose him to settle their differences, because he was sure to do what was right.

Three or four years went by. Abraham was fourteen when the next school was opened, some five miles from home. His third school in Indiana began when he was seventeen. He practiced writing with pen and ink. He was careful to copy tables, rules, and sums for future use, when the textbook might not be handy. The sums with which he took so much care were those of long measure, land measure, and dry measure. If we count all the time Abraham went to school we shall find it to be about one year.

An army of a 10000 men having plundered a  
 city took so much money that when it was  
 shared among them each man had £27. I demand  
 how much money was taken in all

$$\begin{array}{r}
 211 \\
 \hline
 211 \times 10000 \\
 \hline
 2110000
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 10000 \\
 \hline
 27 \\
 \hline
 270000
 \end{array}$$

---

Abraham Lincoln His Book

A problem from Lincoln's exercise book



A lazy boy would have forgotten what he learned at one school before the next school began. Abraham made use of every bit of knowledge he gained to help him on to something better.

His stepmother bore loving witness to his desire to know. "Abe read diligently. . . . He read every book he could lay his hands on; and, when he came across a passage that struck him, he would write it down on boards if he had no paper, and keep it

there until he did get paper. Then he would rewrite it, look at it, repeat it."

Before the fire, in evening time, young Lincoln would often seize the board shovel and cover it with sums.



*After a painting by Eastman Johnson*

*Lincoln reading by the light of the fire*

Then he would take a shaving knife, shave off the sums, and begin again. Such a student would soon be far ahead of his companions. John Hanks, one of the boys that grew up with Lincoln, says, "When Abe and I returned to the house from work he would go to the cupboard, snatch a piece of corn bread, take down a book, sit down, cock his legs up as high as his head, and read." Books were few in that pioneer state, and Abraham had a hard time finding enough of them. He read the Bible, and reread it. He read in the same way *Robinson Crusoe*, *Æsop's Fables*, Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, Weems' *Life of Washington*, and a history of the United States. He read them until he knew them. They were like old friends.

Too poor to own books, he borrowed them from the neighbors. One book he came to own in a curious way. He permitted Weems' *Life of Washington* to get wet. The owner charged him three days' work at pulling fodder for the wet book. Lincoln was now the proud owner of a

*Life of Washington.* He read over and over again the many interesting stories



*Some of Lincoln's books*

told by Weems. Washington stood out in his mind as one of the greatest men that ever lived.

As he grew older his longing to read increased. He told a friend once that he "read through every book he had ever heard of in that county, for a circuit of fifty miles." He even kept a book in the "cracks of his loft" so that he might read at peep of day.

When he became a plowboy in the newly cleared, stumpy fields, he was often

seen perched on a stump reading while the horse rested.

When Lincoln was in his teens a friend living in Rockport, not far away, had a good library. He let young Lincoln use it to his heart's content.

### Lincoln a Favorite

Lincoln was always a favorite with the small boys, for he could never bear to see a large boy "run over" the smaller ones. He always took the small boy's part when the quarrel was just.

With so many persons in that one-room cabin, it was a miracle that Mrs. Lincoln kept the children from quarreling. But Abraham was peacemaker also, and generally kept the family in good humor by his quaint stories, or by his explanations, in simple language, of something he had read. Mrs. Lincoln long afterwards gave loving words in his favor: "I can say, what scarcely one mother in a thousand can say, Abe never gave me a cross word or look, and never refused in fact or

appearance to do anything I asked him. . . . I had a son John, who was raised with Abe. Both were good boys, but I must say, both now being dead, that Abe was the best boy I ever saw, or expect to see."

Abe was a favorite in all kinds of frontier parties, such as house raisings, log rollings, corn huskings, and spelling matches, or any other kind of gathering which belonged to the rude life of the frontier. To the fun and frolic of such events Abraham could add the spice of telling stories. At the spelling school he was leader. Nobody could "spell him down." He was always the first to be chosen, for whoever won him, won the match. Finally he was ruled out and had to pronounce the words for the rest of the spellers.

Young Lincoln possessed another gift that made him a rare favorite in a backwoods audience—the ability to imitate. His power to mimic persons he had heard was, in that rude time, quite an accomplishment. On some occasions he

mounted a stump or log, and imitated the gestures and tone of voice of some itinerant preacher. At other times, after he had been to the county seat and listened to some lawyer trying a case, he held a mock trial and indulged in oratory that he had heard in the court room.

It is apt to be a boy's ambition to become a writer of rhymes. Most children have this "disease," like an attack of measles, but once in a lifetime. But Lincoln kept plodding away at it until he really learned the art of making verses. A few of the jingles with which he used to amuse himself and the boys around him have come down to us. This verse is taken from his copy book:

Abraham Lincoln,  
his hand and pen;  
he will be good but  
God knows when.

In writing a "copy" for a friend he produced this:

Good boys, who to their books apply,  
Will all be great men by and by.

Later the pen of the ambitious young backwoodsman took another turn. One time he was working for a farmer. This farmer treated Lincoln unfairly, and because he was easily teased about his nose young Lincoln took revenge by making rhymes about it. The farmer's nose was long and crooked, and when Lincoln finished his rhyming it surely did not appear any shorter or straighter. To the people of Gentryville this was a new way of "getting even," and it gave them a still higher opinion of young Lincoln's ability.

### Great Physical and Mental Powers

In the friendly trials of muscle, Lincoln at the age of nineteen was the first man of his neighborhood. He grew so fast and so large that before he had reached this age he was six feet and four inches tall. His arms and legs were long and strong. He had very big hands and feet. He not only excelled older boys than himself in reading and reasoning, but he was easily

the champion when it came to trials or physical strength.

He could outrun, outjump, outlift, and outwrestle the boys of his own age. He could chop down trees quicker, and split rails easier, than men far older. The mighty swing of his ax was so powerful that he buried it deep in the trees. He was in great demand, therefore, at all house raisings and log rollings.

Three men were disputing one day as to how they should join in carrying a great log, when Lincoln stepped in, coolly picked up the log, and carried it where it was wanted.



*Lincoln's ax*

It was knowledge, not money, that Abraham wanted. He plowed fields, hoed corn, swung the scythe, flailed wheat, and chopped down trees to get books. He "would walk farther and work harder to get an old book than any one else around him would walk or work to get a new dollar bill."



He walked every week to the village store to read the newspaper, which came from Louisville. Some of the people liked to hear him read bits of great debates in Congress, and to listen to his odd sayings about the men and their views. Sometimes he read news from the great world about which the men in the backwoods village knew so little.

Lincoln used to astonish people by telling them that the sun did not move nor the moon go up or down, that it was really the earth that did the moving, sinking, and rising. Such ideas were strongly disputed by some of the people of that age in Indiana.

Abraham could not bear to see his little dumb friends mistreated. So he wrote an essay on "Cruelty to Animals." He hated strong drink, and was always a temperate man. He saw around him many of the evils from drinking too much whisky. The pioneers always used whisky at gatherings. Seldom, if ever, was there a voice raised against it. But Lincoln

was bold enough to write an essay on "Temperance." A preacher, struck by its reasoning, had it published in a newspaper.

Later Lincoln made another effort, this time in the direction of politics. He wrote a paper on "The American Government." In this essay young Lincoln took the ground that the "Constitution ought to be preserved and the Union ought to be kept from breaking up." Could it be that Lincoln had found in the debates in Congress a hint of the doctrines that some of its members were beginning to preach? A lawyer, after reading the powerful appeal in behalf of the Union, declared that "the world couldn't beat it."

### A New World Opens

The Ohio River brought young Lincoln a new opportunity. The work of carrying people across the river, or of taking them out in a rowboat to meet some passing steamer, brought Lincoln into new company.

Long years afterwards, Lincoln told his great Secretary of State, Mr. Seward, this story of his boyhood days. "Did you ever hear how I earned my first dollar? After much persuasion, I had got the consent of my mother to go and construct a



*A Mississippi River flatboat*

flatboat. . . . I was wondering whether I could make it stronger when two men with trunks came down to the shore in carriages and, looking at the different boats, singled out mine, and asked, 'Who owns this?' 'I do.' 'Will you take us and our trunks out to the steamer?' 'Certainly,' said I. I was very glad to have the chance of earning something, and supposed that each of them would give

me a couple of bits. The trunks were put in my boat, and I sculled them out to the steamer. They got on board, and I lifted the trunks and put them on the deck. The steamer was about to put on steam again, when I called out, 'You have forgotten to pay me.' Each of them took from his pocket a silver half-dollar and threw it on the bottom of my boat. I could scarcely believe my eyes, . . . that I, the poor boy, had earned a dollar in less than a day. . . . I was a more hopeful and thoughtful boy from that time."

The leading man in the village near where Lincoln lived chose Lincoln as "bow hand" on his flatboat bound for New Orleans. This, indeed, was a big event in the life of this boy-man! It took him away from the neighborhood, out of the company of the "nobodies" who lived around him.

Mr. Gentry, for it was he that hired him, loaded his boat with corn, flour, pork, bacon, and other things which he could sell, and put his son Allan and Lincoln on

board and started them for New Orleans. Down the beautiful Ohio they floated until the Mississippi was reached. There they noticed changes in the trees and birds. Here and there a settler's clearing broke the dense forest. How lonely life must have been in those solitary cabins! Then Memphis was not the large city of to-day, but was made up of a few scattered cabins. At times Lincoln saw a great puffing steamboat going up or down the river. How insignificant seemed their small flatboat compared with this throbbing giant with its load of merchandise and passengers!

When they reached Louisiana they were indeed in a strange region. They saw for the first time "live oaks," and other trees all festooned with gray-green moss, as if some one had hung it from branch to branch. They heard strange tongues, for they were now among people some of whom spoke either French or Spanish.

One night, after the boat was tied up

to shore, these two boys were set upon by a gang of negroes, coming to rob them.



*A courtyard in New Orleans*

The boys leaped from their bunks, rushed out, and fell upon the negroes. Lincoln knocked two into the river, young Gentry

knocked one of them down, and the others, frightened by the fate of their companions, took to their heels. The boys cut their boat loose and swung out into the river, where they could not be reached easily.

On they floated until New Orleans was in view. Here were strange sights indeed! Here they beheld a city situated below the river! The streets were below the great levees, or banks of earth, which had been put there by the Government to protect the city from the river. Scores of boats like theirs were to be seen at the wharves of the great city. Many steamboats also were there, some loading and some unloading their cargoes. The boys saw that most of the work was done by slaves.

The cargo and boat both sold, the boys returned to Indiana on a steamboat. Mr. Gentry paid Lincoln eight dollars per month and his passage home on the steamboat. How can we tell how this trip of more than a thousand miles may have influenced Lincoln's life?

## Lincoln Leaves the Indiana Woods for the Illinois Prairies

A few years after Lincoln's return from this voyage, his father caught the "fever" for moving to Illinois. John Hanks had already gone, and had written letters back to Indiana that awoke in Thomas Lincoln the desire to "move." Of course, John Hanks and his family were lonesome, and longed for their relatives and friends in Indiana. Besides, here were great wide prairies with the richest soil. Along the streams were the finest kinds of oak, maple, walnut, and gum trees. If Thomas Lincoln would come to Illinois, John Hanks would choose one hundred sixty acres of good land for him, and would have the logs already cut for his cabin.

This was more than the Lincolns could stand! They decided to go. There were no railroads then, no bridges across the streams, and no canals cut through the



*Whale-oil lamp  
from the Lincoln  
log cabin*



country. They must go in wagons drawn by oxen! They held a sale to get rid of those things they did not, or could not, take with them. The neighbors for miles around came to see them start and to say good-by. Many a boy and girl, no doubt, felt sorry to say "good-by" to the tall, awkward, but kindly young fellow who had been the center of so much fun for the neighborhood.

As he was leaving the place on Pigeon Creek, a boy planted a cedar to keep alive the memory of young Lincoln. Little did he, or any one else, think that this would not be the only monument to the memory of Abraham Lincoln!

The hurry and bustle of getting started took his attention, as it did that of the others. Abraham was just the one to drive the four-ox team which drew his father's wagon. The wagon was very old-fashioned. The wheels had no hubs, no spokes, and no tires, for they were made from rounded blocks of wood sawed from the end of some oak or maple tree. A hole was made

in the center for the axle of the wagon to rest in. The patient oxen were driven without lines. They obeyed Abraham's voice and the motion of the whip every ox driver was sure to carry.

On they went, crossing creeks and rivers, through the woods and out upon the broad prairies. At nighttime they camped, if possible, where there was plenty of wood and water. They cooked their meals of bacon and corn bread by the fire. When the meal was over, they sat around the fire and told stories, and then the women climbed into the wagon to find a bed. But the men, rolled in bearskins or other covering, slept before the fire. Meantime the oxen had been tied with long ropes to enable them to graze, and to keep them from straying too far.

They made for the poorer timber lands on the Sangamon River, where they found that John Hanks had kept his word, and the logs were cut for the cabin.

They settled in Macon County, ten miles west of Decatur. Here young Lincoln cut

and split rails enough to fence ten acres of land. Corn was planted and "tended" and the crop harvested during the first season.

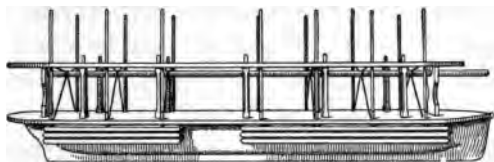
When the summer of 1830 came around Lincoln was past twenty-one. He had, up to this time, turned his money over to his father. Now he meant to work for himself. The first work he must do was to get himself a pair of trousers, for his old ones were about worn out. He engaged to split four hundred rails for every yard of cloth, colored a butternut brown, which it took to make him a pair of trousers. It took fourteen hundred rails to pay for the trousers!

## The Second Trip to New Orleans

Lincoln had become acquainted with a trader named Offutt, who talked a great deal of the things he expected to do. Lincoln, John Hanks, and John Johnston hired out to Offutt to take a flatboat laden with provisions to New Orleans.

They got a large canoe and floated

down the Sangamon River to the place where Jamestown now stands, then walked to Springfield, where they were to meet



*Model of Lincoln's device for lifting vessels over shoals*

Offutt. He had bad news: he could get no flatboat at Beardstown, the place from which they expected to begin their journey. Lincoln promptly said: "Let us make one." He could use tools and had studied the plan of a flatboat when he had taken a trip to New Orleans before. The bargain was struck. A "shanty" was built on the river bank, in which the men slept and cooked and ate their meals. Lincoln took the lead as head carpenter.

In April the boat was loaded and the boatmen bade good-by to the rustic crowd that gathered to see them off. They "poled" their way down the Sangamon until New Salem was reached. Here a

milldam had been built, and on this dam the flatboat stuck fast. They could neither push it over nor draw it back. A crowd gathered and watched the men trying to move the boat. Some of them laughed at one of the crew, tall, gaunt, and ugly, with ragged coat and battered hat. His trousers were torn and patched. He made rather a forlorn picture. A few of the crowd were bold enough to offer their advice, but no attention was paid to it. Lincoln thought the matter over and finally decided what should be done. The men agreed, and went to work at the boat. It finally moved over the dam in safety, and the crew "poled" on their way and left the crowd wondering about the awkward and overgrown fellow.

On they went, down the Illinois to the Mississippi and down that river until New Orleans was reached. Lincoln must have tied the boat up where lay many other such boats, and where there were hundreds of flatboatmen from the "up country." New Orleans was growing

rapidly, and had many interesting sights for young Lincoln's eyes.

One day he came upon a negro auction. It was indeed a new and a sad sight for



*The house Lincoln helped his father build in Coles County*

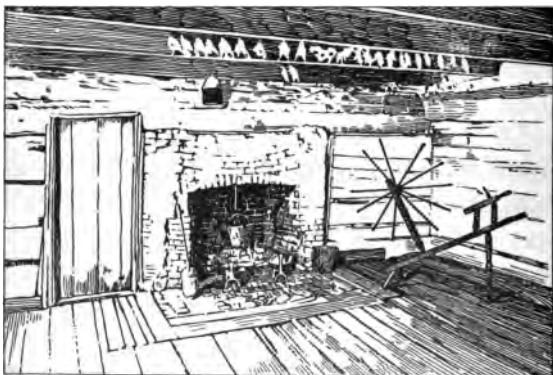
Lincoln. It is told that after looking at this scene for a time, he said: "Boys, let's get away from this. If ever I get a chance to hit that thing, I'll hit it hard!"

From New Orleans, Lincoln and his companions took passage on a noisy, puffing steamboat for St. Louis. From St. Louis, Lincoln walked all the way to Coles County, Illinois, where his father's family had already gone. He helped his father in building the best house he had

ever lived in. It was made of "hewn" logs and contained two rooms. This was the last time Lincoln saw his father.

### Clerk in a Country Store

From Coles County, Lincoln went to New Salem, where he had agreed to become a clerk in a store owned by Offutt. But,



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*Interior of the Lincoln cabin at Goose Neck Prairie, Illinois*

as usual, Offutt had done more bragging than work, and neither Offutt nor the "store things" had come.

Lincoln had to wait. This meant that he had plenty of time to become acquainted with the villagers, about one hundred in all. The crowd remembered Lincoln as that queer fellow who had got Offutt's flatboat over the dam while they were laughing at the crew. Now Lincoln had a chance to show what he could do in a very different way. An election was to be held in the town of New Salem. One of the clerks was sick. Lincoln was asked if he could write. He said that he "could make a few rabbit tracks." At that time not many people in New Salem could write, so "rabbit tracks" were good enough. Lincoln was "sworn in." Every voter came up to the table where the judges and the clerks sat with a poll book before them. The voter told them for whom he wished to vote. His vote was then written down, and then another voter came. When voting became slow Lincoln entertained the crowd with his droll stories.

Offutt's goods came, and the young



flatboatman took his place in the store. Offutt added a mill to his business and put Lincoln in full charge of both store and mill. He had full confidence



After a painting in the State Capitol at Springfield

*A view of New Salem*

in Lincoln's honesty. The people who traded with him learned to believe in him. One evening, so the story runs, as Lincoln was putting the shutters on, a woman came in and bought half a pound of tea. The next morning Lincoln was surprised to see from the weights on the scale that he had given the woman a quarter of a

pound instead of what she had called for. He closed the store and carried her the quarter of a pound of tea. He could not rest until he had made it right with the woman.

The store became a meeting place for young and old. Here met the men from the town and the men from the country. They talked over the news of the day. Now and then they told stories, but more often they sat in open-mouthed wonder while Lincoln told one of his stories. Lincoln learned a great deal from the crowd of happy loungers that came to Offutt's store, some of it useful and some not. But it was a strange thing to see Lincoln joining in the fun and laughter of that rude crowd without himself being made ruder and coarser by it.

Offutt was proud of his big clerk. He declared one day that Lincoln could "lift more than any other man in Sangamon County, and when it came to wrestling, he could throw the whole crowd." Just like boys, there were a number of young

men who took Offutt's words as a challenge. These young fellows were called the "Clary's Grove Boys." They were a rough lot, and kept the village from becoming too sleepy. They told the storekeeper to "trot out" his big clerk and he would find Jack Armstrong a match for him. Lincoln did not wish to wrestle. He probably felt better things were in store for him. But there was no escape. If he did not do it the entire country round about New Salem would believe that he was afraid of Jack Armstrong.



*A matron of New  
Salem, showing the  
leghorn bonnet  
worn in  
Lincoln's day*

The day was set, and Clary's Grove was against New Salem. Most of the fellows took Jack Armstrong's side. They knew what he could do. But when the wrestlers took hold, Jack Armstrong had met his master. Do all he could, he could not throw Lincoln. He tried the tricks

that had won him so many victories, but all in vain. Finally he was put to it so hard that he tried a "foul." This act made Lincoln angry. He caught Armstrong by the throat and, with his long arms, "shook him like a child."

When the wrestling match was over Jack Armstrong grasped Lincoln's hand and declared that he was the "best fellow who ever broke into the camp." The "Clary's Grove Boys" liked Lincoln because he did not "crow" over his victory. He had won his way to their hearts, and ever afterwards they were his true friends.

But better than clerking in the store, and far better than practicing the art of wrestling, Lincoln loved learning. A friend told him about grammar, and said he ought to study it if he was going to appear before the public. Lincoln had already made a number of speeches.

When his friend told him there was but one grammar in the neighborhood, and that was six miles away, Lincoln walked the whole distance and obtained the book.

From now on he gave much time to studying grammar. He often handed the book to a friend to hold while he recited definitions and rules. When he was not



From the "Menard-Salem-Lincoln Souvenir Album,"  
courtesy the Women's Columbian Club of Menard Co.

*A New Salem interior, showing the furniture and costumes  
of Lincoln's time*

sure of the meaning he called in the school teacher. Lincoln learned grammar not only to know it, but to use it. He was putting what he learned into practice.

But the store was "petering out," to use Lincoln's own words. Its owner owed more than he could pay, and the store was

"closed up." Lincoln was out of a job, but he soon found something to do.

He was without doubt the most popular man in New Salem. He was only a little more than twenty-two years old, yet he had really thought of asking the people to vote for him to help make their laws, that is, to elect him to the State Legislature. His friends encouraged him, and we may suppose that the "Clary's Grove Boys" were for Lincoln.

He printed a statement declaring that he was in favor of making their own river, the Sangamon, fit for steamboats, and in favor of putting a stop to charging high rates of interest by passing a law against it. On the question of education, he said: "I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in." He asked the people to overlook his youth, and declared that he had spoken the truth.

Not long after Lincoln had sent out these handbills, the people of his county were excited by the news that a steamboat

from Cincinnati intended to bring a load of goods up the Sangamon River. This was good news. Meetings were held at towns on the river to make plans for the coming of the steamboat. Finally word came that the boat was on its way. Lincoln went down the river to Beardstown to meet it. He was made pilot to guide the boat the rest of the way up, for he knew more about the river than most men. At every stop the boat made there was great shouting. Speeches were made, toasts were drunk, and in every way the people showed how happy they were. But the happiest man was Lincoln. Was not this steamboat proving that the Sangamon could be made fit for boats which could carry what they raised to market, and bring goods to them from the great cities of the world? After a week had gone by the boat started down the river. In the meantime the "high water" had run out and Lincoln had a harder time to get the boat down the river than he had had to get it up.

## Captain Lincoln

Hardly had Lincoln returned from his work as pilot, when all of Illinois was stirred by the news of Black Hawk's war. Black Hawk was an Indian chief. He had a bad name among the frontier whites.

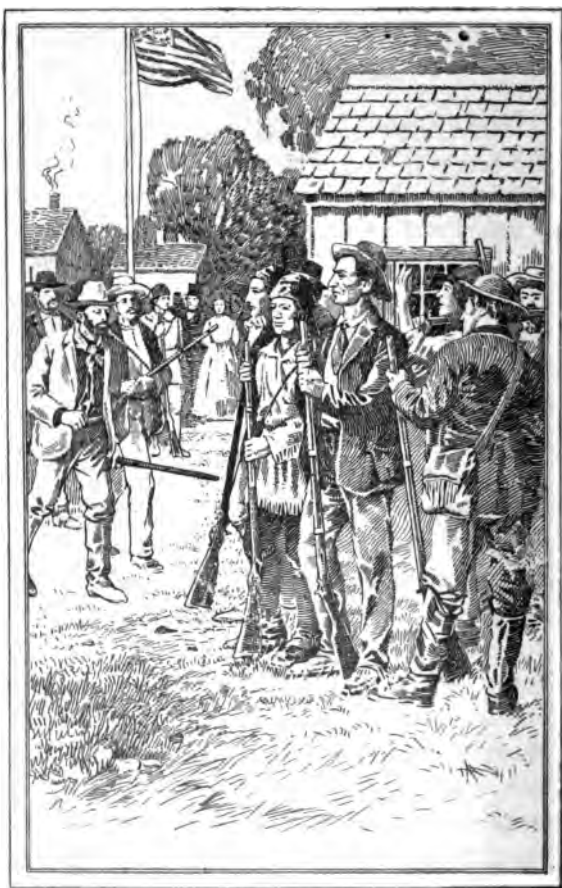
The governor called the men of the state to arms, and Lincoln and the boys of New Salem started immediately to the place of meeting. Only a part of them had rifles. No one had a regular uniform, but some had deerskin breeches and a few wore coonskin caps.

Every man had come to fight the Indians! They must have a captain. There on that village green at Richland, Illinois, were two persons who wanted to be captain. One was Lincoln. Already he felt that he was going to be a "master of men." The men who wanted to be



*An officer in the  
Black Hawk War*





*Choosing Lincoln captain*

captain stepped to different parts of the ground, and the other men immediately flocked around their favorites. Lincoln was greatly surprised and pleased to find that three fourths of the "boys" were on his side. We may be sure that the "Clary's Grove Boys" were among the first to go to Lincoln's side.



In the collection of  
Wisconsin Hist. Soc.

*Powder horn, knife,  
and tomahawk  
used in the  
Black Hawk War*

This was probably the first time any part of the people had a chance to show their love for young Lincoln. Long afterwards he declared, "I have not had any success in life which gave me so much satisfaction."

Very little did Lincoln know about army rules. The men obeyed him because they admired him. But in this campaign against the Indians some of Lincoln's qualities were brought out strongly. One day an old, friendly Indian came into Lincoln's camp bearing a letter from General Lewis Cass. The very sight of an

Indian set the soldiers on fire. They were for killing him right off, and started after him. Lincoln saw he must be quick, and sprang between the Indian and the men, declaring that he would shoot the first man who laid hands on him.

But it was around the camp fire that Captain Lincoln was at his best. He told the soldiers many quaint tales, and won a name as a joker. This bit of military life gave Lincoln a wider view of men and things. He saw regular soldiers, how they were uniformed, drilled, and armed. At the same time he became acquainted with men from different parts of the state.

### Trying to Get Office

Lincoln got back to New Salem only a few days before the election which he was getting ready for when the Black Hawk War broke out. The men who had been in Lincoln's company and the men who knew him at New Salem were working hard to get him votes.

Only a few chances came to Lincoln to speak to the voters. He heard of a sale several miles away. He knew that nearly every one went to a sale in those days, and he knew candidates for office would be there. Lincoln went, too, a tall young man, wearing a blue jeans, claw hammer, bobtail coat, tow-and-wool trousers, cow-hide boots, and a straw hat!

When Lincoln's time came to speak he said: "Gentlemen and Fellow-citizens, I presume you all know who I am. I am humble Abraham Lincoln. . . . My politics are short and sweet, like the old woman's dance. . . . If elected, I shall be thankful; if not, it will be all the same."

While he was speaking, a drunken fellow began quarreling with one of Lincoln's friends. Lincoln sprang from the platform, seized the bully by the neck, and threw him out of the crowd. Then he returned to the stand, and continued speaking as if nothing had happened.

The people of Illinois were dividing into

two parties—the Democratic and the Whig. Those who shouted for a great soldier, Andrew Jackson, who had already been President once, were Democrats. Those who followed the teachings of another great man, Henry Clay, were called Whigs. The great majority of the people of Illinois were for Jackson. But Lincoln was a Whig, whose idol was Henry Clay. He had small chance of being elected, for he was not yet widely known.

Lincoln was defeated, the only time in his life when the people voted. But in New Salem he won two hundred seventy-seven votes out of three hundred!

### Lincoln's National Debt

Offutt's store had failed and Lincoln had nothing to do. He felt then that he must meet and talk with men. Books and men were to be his companions. He joined with a young man named Berry, and bought a store in New Salem.

Berry was no richer than Lincoln, so they went in debt for the store. There were two other stores in the village. Lincoln and Berry bought them out in the same way—by promising to pay!



*Berry and Lincoln's store as it looked in 1895*

One day a man moving West sold Lincoln a barrel. In that barrel filled with rubbish Lincoln found a copy of that great law book, Blackstone's *Commentaries*. During the long summer days, when the farmers were busy at home and customers

were few, Lincoln was busy with his Blackstone. He lay in the shade of a large tree near the store, and read to his heart's content. Unfortunately, Berry was "busy" in the back end of the store, where strong drink was kept!

Berry drank and Lincoln read! The storekeeping was a failure. They sold out. The men gave their note just as Berry and Lincoln had done. Pretty soon the new storekeepers ran away, and Berry died. Lincoln had to shoulder the entire debt. He told the men whom he owed that he had no money, but that they should have it as soon as he could get it. It was a mountain of debt to that poor young man. He called it his "national debt," by way of a joke. But it was no joke for a poor young man to pay out a thousand dollars in a country where money was scarce. He paid every cent of it—interest and all. It took him seventeen years to do it! What a burden to hang over one like a cloud! After that people called him "Honest Abe."

## Two Offices Given Lincoln by the Democrats

Before he was out of the store Lincoln's friends asked President Jackson to make him postmaster at New Salem. The President and many of Lincoln's friends were Democrats, but this made no difference. Being postmaster was not a big office, and it gave Lincoln time to read and study. It is said that he "carried the post office in his hat." When he met a person for whom he had a letter Lincoln took off his hat and handed him the letter. When he went about the country he took the mail in his hat, and as he passed the cabins he handed it out. He was a sort of first Rural Free Delivery.

Pretty soon a better chance came to him. The surveyor of Sangamon County found he needed help. He sent word to Lincoln that he wanted him as deputy surveyor. Lincoln talked the matter over with the man and said he would take the position if he did not have to



change his politics! The surveyor was a Democrat; Lincoln was a Whig. It was agreed. But Lincoln knew nothing about surveying. He obtained a book on surveying and began the work of mastering it. Day and night he studied, sometimes



*Lincoln's surveying instruments*

until early morning hours. He called upon his friend the school teacher for help. In a few weeks he reported for business.

For every day's work as surveyor he received three dollars. A princely sum! He had never earned so much money for a day's work before. One great use to which he put his work as surveyor was to get acquainted with people.

While he was acting as postmaster and surveyor, Lincoln never failed to do a kind deed when he saw a chance. The people of New Salem said Lincoln was "obliging." The children of the neighborhood all loved him.

Hannah, wife of Jack Armstrong, treated Lincoln like one of her family. "Abe would come out to our house, drink milk, eat mush, corn bread and butter, bring the children candy, and rock the cradle while I got him something to eat."

It was but a short time before Lincoln had to have a horse. The surveyors had to go long distances. But Lincoln had no money. How was he to get a horse without money?



He bought one on credit and promised to pay at some future time. He obtained a pair of saddlebags, in which he carried a compass, a chain, his surveying books, and other useful things.

But the man grew tired of waiting for his money, so one day an officer of the law stopped Lincoln, seized the horse, and was bound to have the money. But Lincoln could not pay. He was hardly able to find money for his board, and to keep himself in decent clothes. A friend came to his rescue, paid for the horse, and

turned him over to Lincoln. So it was that Lincoln found friends at every turn.

Lincoln never forgot this act of friendship. Years afterward, when he was President and this old friend was living in California, he received a letter from Lincoln naming him for an office with a good salary.

### Elected to the State Legislature

Two years had gone by since Lincoln's defeat. He had made many friends in that time. They encouraged young Lincoln, and he finally told the people that he wanted their support for the State Legislature.

During the spring and summer he went to all house raisings, horse races, shooting matches, sales, or auctions as we would say, wherever the people came together. This was just the sort of thing he liked best. He could be a judge at a horse race, make a speech on the Constitution, act as peacemaker between two

quarreling fellows in such a way as to leave them both thinking him the fairest and most honest man in the county.

Lincoln's great strength, long reach of arm, and still longer legs, made him a great favorite in running, jumping, or wrestling. An old farmer has left us a story of the way Lincoln won votes. "He came to my house . . . during harvest," says the farmer. "There were some thirty men in the field. He got his dinner and went out in the field where the men were at work. I gave him an introduction, and the boys said that they could not vote for a man unless he could make a hand. 'Well, boys,' said he, 'if that is all, I am sure of your votes.' He took hold of the cradle, and led the way all the round with perfect ease. The boys were satisfied, and I don't think he lost a vote in the crowd."

When the votes were counted, Lincoln was elected. He stood next to the highest on the list. The people had stood by him.

When Abraham Lincoln went to the town of Vandalia, the meeting place of the Legislature, he crossed a new line in life. He was still the same simple, unpretend-



*The State House at Vandalia*

ing young man. He was still poor, and had to struggle. But he began in that Legislature to know, and to be known by, a different set of men. A great future was before him. Now indeed began a new world for Lincoln. But he never forgot his old friends, made in the days when he was young and most in need of friends. He never lost his love for children.

His home for many years had been in the woods, and New Salem was not much better. He had never before lived where there was a church. Vandalia was not a large town, but it was the meeting place of the Legislature. There he met some men who were already great men in the opinion of the state of Illinois, the governor, a few judges, and still fewer members of the Legislature. Here Lincoln met Stephen A. Douglas for the first time, and little did he think that the "smallest man he ever saw" was the one man who was to be his greatest opponent in the battles of the future. From this time on, to the end of Douglas' life, first at long intervals but later more frequently, they continued to meet, and a fierce struggle was fought between these two men.

Lincoln did not push himself to the front at Vandalia, but modestly kept a back seat. He learned a great deal from seeing how different men fought for their bills before the House.

There was one thing in which he

was already experienced — shaking hands. When Lincoln took a man's hand in his he made that man feel that Lincoln's whole heart was in the greeting.

In still another way Lincoln was the equal of any man in Vandalia. **That** was in his great power as a story-teller. We have noted this power in his boyhood. What holds young and old alike so well as a good story! When not at work making laws, Lincoln usually had a crowd around him to whom he was telling some story.

### Lincoln Reëlected a Second, a Third, and a Fourth Time

When the time came, again Lincoln was a candidate for the State Legislature. He had a still better chance of winning in the election, because he was more widely known. But he had to take the same steps as before---to tell the people what his principles were, to make stump speeches, to shake hands with everybody, and to be polite to the ladies.

After the voting was over it was found that Sangamon County had elected nine members to the Legislature, all Whigs! Lincoln led all the others. It was a time



*The Capitol at Springfield*

of great excitement in the Legislature. Lincoln voted with the majority for improving the rivers and building canals.

But most of Lincoln's attention was given to a measure for changing the capital from Vandalia to Springfield, in Lincoln's own county. The measure was



passed, and the people of Sangamon County believed in him more than ever.

At this time the slavery question was being discussed in all parts of the United States. The Abolitionists were a small body of men who were bound to stir up the people over the slavery question. At that time the great majority of people hated the Abolitionists. In many parts of the North mobs tried to scare the Abolitionists, and in Illinois itself a mob had murdered Elijah P. Lovejoy while he was defending his newspaper. The Legislature of Illinois took up the question and bitterly denounced the Abolitionists.

Abraham Lincoln, then only twenty-eight years old, with another member signed a protest against this action of the Legislature. These two men were not Abolitionists, for they thought the Abolitionists did more harm than good. But they declared that "slavery is founded on both injustice and bad policy." Just two men, among the whole body of the Legislature, were bold enough to stand out

from the rest and declare slavery wrong—a double wrong. For the sake of being in the right Lincoln did not fear public opinion. This protest against the resolutions of the Illinois Legislature was signed more than a quarter of a century before slavery was abolished.

Once more he ran for the Legislature. The man who ran against him was named Taylor. While making a speech before a large crowd, Taylor had said that Democrats were poor men, while Whigs were rich and lived in fine houses.

When Lincoln's turn came, he said: "My opponent accuses the Whigs of riding in fine carriages and wearing ruffled shirts, kid gloves, and gold watch chains. Well, I was once a poor boy and worked on a flatboat for eight dollars a month and had only a pair of buckskin breeches. Now if you call that aristocracy, I plead to the charge." Lincoln knew that Taylor was trying to fool the people, so while speaking, with a sweep of his long arm he caught Taylor's vest, jerked it open, and

the people saw a ruffled shirt and a gold chain! They roared with laughter, and Taylor, red in the face, left the stand. Lincoln was elected.

Lincoln hated shams and loved fair play. In Springfield he had his law office above a hall. One evening his friend Baker was making a Whig speech in this hall. Lincoln was in his law office above. He lifted the trapdoor in order to hear Baker speak. Baker said something that made the Democrats in the crowd very angry. "Pull him down! Put him out!" they cried, and started for the platform. Just then they saw the legs, then the body, and finally the head of Abraham Lincoln dropping down from above on to the platform by the side of Baker. He raised a hand, but the men were angry and did not stop. They saw him seize a stone pitcher, and heard him say: "I will break this over the head of the first man who lays a hand on Baker. Hold on, gentlemen! This is a free country, a land of free speech. Mr. Baker has a right to

be heard, and I am here to protect him!" The crowd drew back, and Baker finished his speech.

Lincoln's last campaign for the Legislature was very different from the others.



*A Whig campaign parade*

It was a national campaign—one for the election of a President for the United States.

Martin Van Buren, of New York, was the candidate of the Democrats, and General Harrison, of Ohio, of the Whigs. Hundreds of orators went about the country speaking to great crowds of people, sometimes as many as fifty thousand, sometimes one hundred thousand.

The Whigs had the largest meetings. Great wagons drawn by many horses were filled with young women. In the parades were log cabins, such as General Harrison had lived in. Coon skins were stretched on the cabin doors. Sometimes a live coon would be seen sitting on the top of a cabin. There were barrels of cider, and big balls rolling on to victory. There were barbecues, where they roasted oxen, sheep, and pigs, to feed the hungry crowds.

A monster meeting was held by the Whigs in Springfield. Twenty thousand people came to town that day. It took fourteen teams of horses to bring the people that came all the way from Chicago. They were three weeks on the road. On that day Springfield was filled with raccoons, log cabins, and barrels of cider. One cabin was on a wagon drawn by thirty yoke of oxen. By the side of this cabin a hickory tree was planted. In this tree raccoons were seen playing. A barrel of cider stood by the door.

Lincoln was already a favorite speaker,

although but thirty-one years old. He had a great hold on the people because he used plain, simple language, and always seemed to be frank and honest. He told stories, sometimes to keep the people in good humor, and sometimes to point a hard-hitting argument. He fully enjoyed this campaign of fun and frolic. The Whigs carried the election, and Lincoln went to the Legislature for the last time.

### He Decides to Become a Lawyer

Long before, Lincoln had decided to become a lawyer. We have already seen how he had a taste of Blackstone's *Commentaries*. But Major John T. Stuart advised him to study law. Major Stuart lived in Springfield, and was himself a lawyer. He probably saw in Lincoln's keen mind and logical way of thinking the traits of a good lawyer. At any rate, at that time the law was the surest way to public favor in Illinois.

The usual way to get a start was to study in the office of some lawyer who had already made a name for himself. But Lincoln started studying alone. He walked twenty miles to borrow law books from Major Stuart. It is said that he sometimes read them on the road as he tramped back and forth. He saw how a knowledge of what the law books contained would be of great aid to him in the Legislature.

One day after he had come back from the Legislature he decided to leave New Salem and move to Springfield.

Springfield was a town of only fifteen hundred, but Lincoln had many warm friends there, for he was one of the men who had had most to do in making Springfield the capital of the state. When he reached Springfield, on a borrowed horse, he carried everything he owned in his saddlebags.

He went to a storekeeper and asked how much a bedstead, bedding, and certain other things would cost. It figured up seventeen dollars. Lincoln said that he did not have the money. But if the

storekeeper would give him credit until Christmas, and his experiment of being a lawyer turned out well, he would pay him. If he failed he did not know that he should ever be able to pay him.



*Lincoln's  
office chair*

The storekeeper's sympathy was aroused. He told Lincoln that "upstairs" was a room with a double bed, and that he was welcome to use the room and to share the bed with him. Lincoln carried his saddlebags upstairs. Soon he came down with a broad smile on his face, and said, "Well, Speed, I've moved."

Lincoln began his career as a lawyer in the office of his friend Major Stuart. These early days at the law were hard days. It was not very long, however, before Lincoln was able to make his living at the law. But his creditors! They were given everything he made above what Lincoln needed to live on.

One day an agent of the Post Office



Department reached Springfield. He came to collect seventeen dollars which Lincoln owed the Government as post-master at New Salem. Lincoln walked across the room to a little trunk. He drew forth an old cotton rag containing the exact amount in silver money. He paid the agent. The men who saw this were amazed, for they knew how much he had often needed money. Why did he not use it in those days of pinching poverty? He simply said that he had made it a habit not to spend money belonging to others.

### Lincoln's First Love

Not until Lincoln reached the age of twenty-five did he fall in love. While he was living at New Salem, Ann Rutledge captured his heart. She was the daughter of the tavern keeper, and had been to school at Jacksonville, a rare thing in that day. The people who knew her declare that she was a young woman of many virtues. She was winsome in her ways, with a grace

and charm that caused the young men who visited her father's tavern suddenly to become quiet when Ann Rutledge came near.

Unfortunately for Lincoln, she had given her heart to another. A young man had won her. He had come to New Salem from somewhere in the East, and now that he had made his way, he would go back to bring his parents to New Salem, and then claim his bride.

After he had gone, his letters finally stopped coming, and no one knew what had become of him. Ann Rutledge was a heart-broken girl. For a time she could think of but little else. The silence of her lover hung over her like a great cloud.

Before she had forgotten her sorrow Abraham Lincoln had fallen in love with her. But Lincoln was poor and had nothing to offer but a great heart full of human love. Would Ann Rutledge accept Lincoln?

It is a tradition at New Salem that Lincoln first told her of his love at a

"quilting bee" to which they had gone. For a long time the very quilt over which her nervous fingers flew was kept by friends as proof of her great excitement, for the uneven stitches tell the story.

Ann Rutledge did not give him an answer that evening. Might not her old lover come back? Once more a letter was sent, but weeks grew into months, and no answer ever came.

She accepted Abraham Lincoln, and the two lovers were happy. But poverty stood between them and marriage. They had to put off the wedding. When Lincoln should come back from the Legislature, and after she had returned from another year at school in Jacksonville, they were to be married.

The world seemed brighter to Lincoln. Friends seemed gladder to see him.

But Ann Rutledge could not get rid of the shadow of her first lover. The thoughts of him still haunted her. She could not shake them off. Had she not pledged her word to remain true to him?

# COTILLION PARTY.

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*The pleasure of your Company is respectfully solicited as a Cotillion Party, to be given at the 'American House,' on to-morrow evening at 7 o'clock, P. M.*

*December 16th, 1839*

N. H. RIDGELY,  
J. A. MCLENNAND,  
R. ALLEN,  
M. H. WASH,  
P. W. TORD,  
G. A. DOUGLASS,  
W. S. PRENTICE,  
N. W. EDWARDS,

J. F. SPEED,  
J. SHIELDS,  
E. D. TAYLOR,  
E. H. MERRYMAN,  
N. E. WHITESIDE,  
M. EASTMAN,  
J. R. DILLER,  
A. LINCOLN,  
*Managers.*

*Invitation to a party attended by Lincoln*

The people of New Salem said she was breaking her heart over him. She seemed to be pining away. Finally she fell sick. Her sickness grew into a fever.

Poor Lincoln! He had been shut away from her, but as she grew worse she cried for him. Her family let her have her wish. They spent an hour together. She sang for him. It was her last song. In a few days she passed away, and he seemed to be left alone in the world.

Lincoln wandered in the woods and along the river banks and muttered strange words to himself. His friends became afraid for him, and one of them took him to his friendly cabin. There under the tender care of the wife in that cabin home, Lincoln came to be himself once more. He never forgot good Bowling Green and his wife Nancy. Neither did he soon forget the sweet prairie flower that drooped and died before he plucked it. Long, long years afterwards Lincoln said to a friend, "I have loved the name of Rutledge to this day."

## Love and Marriage

After some time a cheery, good-looking young woman from Kentucky came to live in Springfield. Her name was Mary Todd. She became a center of admiration for a number of young men. One of them was bright, keen young Stephen A. Douglas. But none of them took hold of her feelings as did Abraham Lincoln. He certainly was not a "polished society gentleman," but he had a kindliness of manner and a rugged honesty that seemed to touch her.

In the course of time she became engaged to Abraham Lincoln. But how opposite they were! Lincoln was so very tall, and she just the average height. He was slim, bony, and awkward, while she was well built, and a picture of grace and beauty. His mind was rather slow and his face even then a sad one, while she was indeed the gayest sort of a person, loving fun and frolic.

After they had been engaged for a time, Lincoln asked himself whether he

really loved Mary Todd as well as she deserved. Could he really make her as happy as she now seemed to be? The more he brooded over this question the more firmly convinced he became that he did not deserve to marry Mary Todd.

In a fit of despair he broke off his engagement and went to visit a good friend in Kentucky. There with the aid of warm friends he came back to himself, and in due time returned to Springfield.

Still Lincoln was troubled, because he was not now certain that he had done the honorable thing in breaking his engagement.

He was thinking of this problem when writing later to the good friend in Kentucky who had been so full of sympathy for him: "I must regain my confidence in my own ability to keep my resolves when they are made. In that ability I once prided myself as the only or chief gem of my character; that gem I lost—how and where you know too well. I have not yet regained it, and, until I

do, I cannot trust myself in any matter of much importance."

In the fall of the year 1842 he had reached the point where he had faith in himself once more, and he renewed the engagement with Mary Todd. The two young people seemed to be in a great hurry, if the words of a bridesmaid can be taken: "One

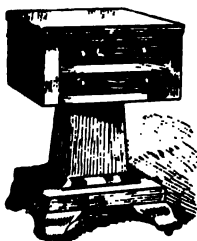


*Mary Todd Lincoln*

morning, bright and early, my cousin came down in her excited, impetuous way, and said to my father: 'Uncle, you must go up and tell my sister that Mr. Lincoln and I are to be married this evening,' and to me: 'Get on your bonnet, and go with me to get my gloves, shoes, etc., and then to Mr. Edwards's (her brother-in-law).' When we reached there, we found some excitement



over a wedding being sprung upon them so suddenly. However, my father . . . poured oil upon the waters, and we thought everything was 'ship-shape,' when Mrs. Edwards laughingly said: 'How



*Worktable from  
Lincoln's home in  
Springfield*

fortunately you have selected this evening, for the Episcopal Sewing Society is to meet here, and my supper is all ordered . . . ' Mary declared she would not make a spectacle for gossiping ladies to gaze upon and talk about. . . . Then my father was dispatched to tell Mr. Lincoln that the wedding would be deferred until the next evening."

For good or ill, they two were made one. And Mary told one of her friends she knew "that his heart was as big as his arm was long." Mrs. Lincoln had great faith in the man she had married, for she declared that one day he would be President of the United States.

## Getting Ready for Congress

Shortly after his marriage, Lincoln let his friends know that he wanted to go to Congress. But a young friend got ahead of him, and Lincoln was sent to the convention to help get the nomination for him. Lincoln did not sulk, but laughingly declared that he felt "a good deal like a fellow who is made a groomsman to a man that has cut him out and is marrying his own dear 'gal.'"

He had two good reasons for working hard in the campaign—one was to elect his friend to Congress, and the other to make sure of the election of Henry Clay—his political idol.

But Lincoln's fame in this campaign went beyond Illinois. The Whigs of Indiana invited him to come to the Hoosier State and make speeches. How pleased Lincoln must have been! To go back to Gentryville and shake hands with old friends!

Not far from Gentryville, Lincoln made

one of his speeches in a log school-house. Many old friends came to hear him. How glad they were to greet him



*The old swimming hole*

and to listen to his quaint but simple eloquence! After speaking he took pleasure in looking up every spot he had known in his boyhood days. The old swimming hole, the town grocery to which he had walked to read the weekly paper from Louisville, the mill where the boys had had good times while waiting their

"turn," the blacksmith shop with its old forge, were all looked over again with fond memories.

Lincoln went back to Illinois to learn that his friend had been elected, but that Henry Clay was once more defeated for the Presidency.

Two years later, Lincoln received every vote for the nomination for Congress. The Democrats had put up that famous backwoods preacher, Peter Cartwright. He, like Lincoln, was born in Kentucky. Like Lincoln, he was a poor boy who had won what little education he had by his own efforts. Cartwright knew everybody, and to many people it seemed a hard fight.

But Lincoln went into the campaign to win, and win he did, with a larger vote than any man had yet received. In writing to an old friend he said that he was very glad for the friends that had stood by him in the hard battle that was just over, but he added: "It has not pleased me as much as I expected."

## Lincoln in Congress

When Lincoln went to Washington to attend the meetings of Congress he was the one lone Whig from Illinois. He did not know any Whigs, but soon got acquainted with some of them, for they were curious to see the man who could win in a state so strongly Democratic. He soon won his way to the hearts of the members by his ready wit and by the stories of which he seemed to have so many.

It was a time of great excitement both in and out of Congress. The war with Mexico was going on. The Whigs took the stand that the war was wrong, but voted men and money for the army.

The Democrats believed the war was altogether right. Lincoln took the Whig view, and made several speeches, some of which were keen and witty.

Although Lincoln was a great admirer of Henry Clay, he saw that the people, dazzled by the brilliant victories of

General Taylor in Mexico, really wanted to elect him President.

Lincoln's fame as a popular speaker was spreading. He joined a Taylor campaign club called the "Young Indians," and received a pressing invitation to go to New England and aid in winning votes for Taylor. He spoke in many places, such as Worcester, Cambridge, and Boston.

He spent the month of October speaking to the people of his own state for Taylor.

In November Lincoln went back to Congress, resolved to do something in regard to slavery. In the District of Columbia, in which the city of Washington is situated, was a slave market. "Much like a sort of negro livery stable," Lincoln said, "where droves of negroes were collected, temporarily kept, and finally taken to Southern markets, precisely like droves of horses." Many men of all parties were opposed to it.

Lincoln introduced a bill into Congress which aimed to remove slavery from the

District, little by little, until slavery should be entirely gone. The bill was very fair to slaveholders, because it provided that before the slaves were taken away the slaveholder was to give his consent to it, and was to receive full pay for the loss of his slaves. Although Lincoln worked very hard for his bill, he was forced to see it defeated.

The fourth of March was coming on, when General Taylor, or "Old Rough and Ready," as his soldier boys loved to call him, was to be made President. Lincoln was appointed a member of the committee on the "Inauguration Ball," or dance. This was a great event with the people of fashion in Washington. Lincoln was present.

Like most young men, Lincoln felt the attractions of Washington and thought he would like to live there. When his time in Congress was out he tried to get an important office. How thankful the American people ought to be that Lincoln did not bury his talents in one of the public

offices at Washington, and how they should rejoice that he came back to Springfield and went into the same little law office he had left two years before!

### Lincoln Everybody's Friend

Everybody was glad to give Lincoln a hearty welcome home again. He was once more among his old friends. Even the children knew him. He was glad to call them by their first names. For most of them he had done some kind deed which made them his friends forever. A Springfield woman tells this story of Lincoln's kindness to her.

"I was going . . . for my first trip alone on the railroad cars. . . . The hackman . . . failed to call for my trunk. . . . I was standing by the gate, my hat and gloves on, sobbing as if my heart would break, when Mr. Lincoln came by.

" 'Why, what's the matter?' he asked, and I poured out all my story. 'How big's



the trunk? There's still time, if it isn't too big.' And he pushed through the gate and up to the door. My mother and I took him up to my room, where my



*Lincoln's home in Springfield*

little old-fashioned trunk stood, locked and tied. 'Oh, ho!' he cried; 'wipe your eyes, and come on quick.' And before I knew what he was going to do he had shouldered the trunk, was down stairs, and striding out of the yard. Down the street he went, fast as his long legs could carry him. I trotted behind,

drying my tears as I went. We reached the station in time. Mr. Lincoln put me on the train, kissed me good-by, and told me to have a good time. It was just like him."

Lincoln wrote to his stepbrother, saying, "You already know I desire that neither father nor mother shall be in want of any comfort, either in health or sickness, while they live; and I feel sure you have not failed to use my name, if necessary, to procure a doctor or anything else for father in his present sickness."

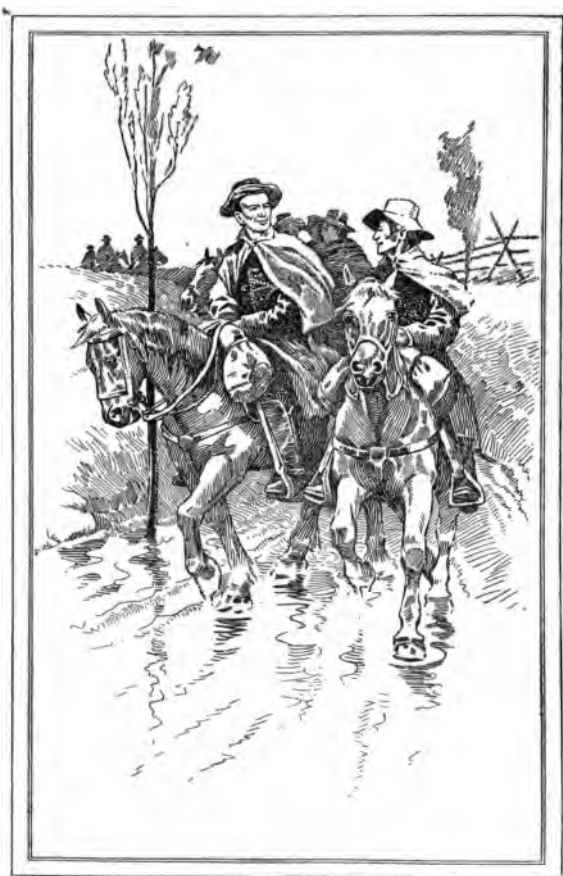
And yet Lincoln did not always aid the people who asked him. This same stepbrother got some good advice instead of money. "Your request for eighty dollars I do not think it best to comply with now. At the various times when I have helped you a little, you have said to me, 'We can get along very well now,' but in a very short time I find you in the same difficulty again. . . . You are now in need of some money; and what I propose is that you shall go to work 'tooth and nail'

for somebody who will give you money for it. . . . I now promise you that for every dollar you will, between this and the first of next May, get for your own labor, . . . I will then give you one other dollar."

### Life on the Circuit

Lincoln was a plain, simple man to the end of his life. He could have been rich had he wanted to be, but he loved simple ways. He could have become a great landholder, as some of the lawyers did. Or he could have gone to Chicago had he wanted to do so. A great lawyer there offered to make Lincoln his partner. But Lincoln preferred to stay in Springfield among friends, and practice law in the country villages which then formed the county seats. He never loved money for its own sake.

He now studied with a grim resolution to master the law. The people of Springfield noticed the difference in him. He gave more attention to his law books and



*Riding the circuit*

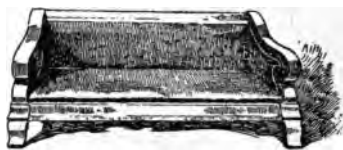
less to sitting around "cracking jokes." He often placed a candle on a chair near the head of his bed, and studied until two o'clock in the morning.

He said to some of his friends that every year better educated lawyers were coming West. "They study their cases as we never do. . . . They will soon be in Illinois. . . . I am going. . . to study law. I am as good as any of them, and when they get out to Illinois I will be ready for them."

The famous "Eighth Judicial Circuit" was the one that Lincoln traveled. It was located in the central portion of the state. A judge held court at the towns in which the courthouses were located. These towns were called county seats. As the judge moved from county to county, holding court, the lawyers went along, sometimes on horseback, and sometimes in carriages. These crowds of lawyers were a happy lot, telling stories and cracking jokes as they rode along.

The people of the county were always

very much excited over the coming of "court week." They were a plain, simple people who greatly enjoyed the conflicts of opposing lawyers. In great cases they crowded to hear the principal speeches, and drank in with hungry minds the flights of eloquence of the lawyers that rode the circuit.



*A sofa from Lincoln's home*

Lincoln was a favorite among the country people. They liked his quaint and simple language, especially the many stories he told to illustrate his cases. But Lincoln was a favorite with the lawyers, too, when they gathered evenings to pass away the time. On such occasions as these Lincoln was at his best.

Judge David Davis was at one time judge on this circuit. He liked Lincoln, and was always anxious when Lincoln did not appear after the day's work was done. "Where's Lincoln?" "Why don't Lincoln come?" he would ask the other lawyers.

When the court was in session, and a case in which Lincoln had no interest was being tried, he would frequently whisper stories to the other lawyers. Judge Davis permitted the lawyers to whisper, but did not permit them to become noisy.

"Mr. Lincoln had just come in," said one of the clerks of the court, "and leaning over my desk had told me a story so irresistibly funny that I broke out into a loud laugh. The judge called me to order in haste, saying, 'This must be stopped! Mr. Lincoln, you are constantly disturbing this court with your stories!' Then turning to me, 'You may fine yourself five dollars for your disturbance!' I apologized, but told the judge that the story was worth the money. In a few minutes the judge called me to him. 'What was the story Lincoln told you?' he asked. I told him, and he laughed aloud in spite of himself. 'Remit your fine,' he ordered."

What a look into the past does **this** story give us! A great judge like Davis on the most friendly terms with **the**

lawyers. And Lincoln! The wit, the fun-provoking, jolly Lincoln! Judge Davis loved him, and would not miss a single story Lincoln told to the lawyers.

In the course of time, Lincoln was called upon to speak in many important cases. One trial called him to Cincinnati, where he met a lawyer named Edwin M. Stanton, who afterwards became Secretary of War under Lincoln. Little did Stanton dream that he would some day serve under this tall, awkward Illinois lawyer.

In a great trial to which the Illinois Central Railroad was a party, Lincoln received his largest fee—five thousand dollars. But most of his fees were small. Many of the people were too poor to pay a lawyer very much. Lincoln was often scolded by the other lawyers for not charging more.

Now and then a case came up in which Lincoln charged nothing. It was so in the trial of William Armstrong, the son of "Jack Armstrong, of New Salem days." Jack was dead, and his lonely widow was



in court with her boy, who was charged with murdering a man. How the old times at New Salem came back to Lincoln! As clerk in the store, his contest with Jack Armstrong; postmaster at New Salem, carrying the mail around in his hat; his appointment as surveyor; the Black Hawk War; the hours he spent in the Armstrong cabin—all came back to him.

"Uncle Abe," says William Armstrong, telling the story in after days, "did his best talking when he told the jury what true friends my father and mother had been to him in the early days. . . . He told how he used to go out to 'Jack' Armstrong's and stay for days; how kind mother was to him and how, many a time, he had rocked me to sleep in the old cradle."

The feeling in that court room was hot against William Armstrong. The main witness had declared he saw Armstrong strike the fatal blow. "What time was it?" asked Lincoln. "About eleven o'clock in the evening," answered the witness. "Was it a bright night?" "Yes, the

moon was nearly full." "What was its position in the sky?" "About the position of the sun at ten o'clock in the forenoon." Lincoln immediately gave the jury an almanac. "Gentlemen, either this witness is wrong or the almanac is wrong, for it says there was no moon that night."

There was a sudden change of feeling in that court room. The jury brought in the verdict, "Not guilty," and Hannah Armstrong, in her poverty and old age, thanked God for such a friend as Abraham Lincoln.

He did not like to take cases he knew to be wrong. Once while trying a case he turned to a lawyer and said, "Swett, the man is guilty; you defend him, I can't."

Once Lincoln was engaged to defend a man. Proof was given that he was really attempting a fraud. Lincoln left the court room and went to the hotel in deep disgust. The judge sent for him, but he refused to go. He said, "Tell the judge my hands are dirty; I came over to wash them."

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These examples are enough to show that Lincoln was a very different lawyer from some of the men who practice at the bar of justice. When Lincoln went on the circuit he did not leave his conscience at home.

He did not always take cases offered him, even if there was no question of where the right lay. He said to a man who wished him to be his lawyer: "Yes, there is no reasonable doubt but that I can gain your case for you. I can set a whole neighborhood at loggerheads; I can distress a widowed mother and her six fatherless children, and thereby get for you six hundred dollars, which rightfully belongs, it appears to me, as much to them as it does to you. I shall not take your case, but I will give a little advice for nothing. . . . I would advise you to try your hand at making six hundred dollars in some other way."

Lincoln was not the greatest lawyer that ever lived, but he was one of the truest men that ever practiced law.

## Beginning to Debate Slavery

For four years Lincoln had been busy studying and practicing law. Then the slavery question suddenly awakened him and called him to his life's work.

Slavery was first brought to the colony of Virginia nearly three hundred years ago. Each of the thirteen colonies had slaves. But our Revolution, by which independence was won, began a movement against slavery. Some of our best men North and South looked upon slavery as an evil. Congress passed a law called the "Ordinance of 1787," which forbade slavery in the territory northwest of the Ohio River.

In 1821 Missouri was admitted into the Union with the proviso that slavery should not exist north of its southern boundary—the famous line of  $36^{\circ} 30'$ .

When Lincoln was in Congress the war with Mexico was going on. By that war the United States got all her territory in the Southwest. The North and the

South quarreled as to whether slavery should or should not go into this territory.



From a photo by Brady  
*Stephen A. Douglas*

Henry Clay, now an old man, came back to the Senate and introduced the famous Compromise Bill of 1850. Both Whigs and Democrats, North and South, favored this compromise, and it became a law.

In 1854 Senator Douglas introduced a bill into Congress. This was the "Kansas-Nebraska Bill."

This famous bill became a law, and provided that the people of Kansas and Nebraska should decide whether they would or would not have slavery in their territories. It went one step further; it repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820, and left slavery north of 36° 30' to depend on the wish of the people.

A storm of indignation swept the North. It awoke Lincoln, and called him to face

a new duty. Stephen A. Douglas was the most unpopular man in the North. He was accused of trying to win votes in the South to aid him in becoming President. He declared that, on his way from New York to Chicago, he could read his newspaper at night by the light of his own burning effigy. He had been a great favorite with the Northern Democracy, but the Kansas-Nebraska law had hurt his popularity.

Only a few friends met him at the train. No booming cannon told of his coming; but flags in the city, on the river, and in the harbor were flying at half mast, and the church bells tolling as if the city were in mourning. Douglas was a brave man, and went immediately to face a large audience. He tried to explain his conduct in regard to the Kansas-Nebraska Bill. The crowd was sullen and silent. He was listened to for a time. Then somebody disputed one of his statements. At once the storm broke loose. He could not master that audience. He grew angry, but the people

would not hear him further. Douglas left.

In a short time he went to Lincoln's home to speak to the farmers at the State Fair. Douglas explained the Kansas-Nebraska Bill—how it rested on the right of the people of the territories to settle the slavery question for themselves. He spoke for three hours. It was a masterful speech. Douglas was a great speaker. He had been trained in debating from his boyhood. He was now the greatest off-hand debater in America. He was ready at a moment's notice on any question.

It was understood that on the next day Lincoln would reply to the speech made by Douglas. For six months Lincoln had given up his story-telling, and had not been seen in the places where he had been in the habit of going. Now he was to be found in the libraries, looking up the subject of slavery.

When Lincoln mounted the stage to speak, on that October day of 1854, a great *cheering* crowd greeted him. He seemed

unusually solemn. The greatness of the subject had taken hold of him. He spoke words of much soberness. Fewer jokes and more history fell from his lips. He made it clear to the audience what a great wrong slavery was, and that Douglas, in opening Kansas and Nebraska to slavery, had done great harm, not only to the people of those territories but to the people of the whole nation.

Senator Douglas sat in the crowd and listened to his argument. Sometimes Douglas, stung by the keenness of his reasoning, sprang to his feet, only to be driven to sit down again. How proud of Lincoln the antislavery men were! He spoke for four hours. When he had finished, that great audience cheered and cheered again, so pleased were they with Lincoln's speech. Douglas felt called upon to answer, but he could not break the charm of Lincoln's logic.

This masterly speech proved Lincoln to be the equal of Douglas. He at once became the leader of the antislavery people



of Illinois, a position he did not give up as long as he lived.

Lincoln followed Douglas to Peoria, where they debated the same question. Lincoln used the same plan he had used in Springfield. No fooling, no telling of quaint stories, but plain, simple logic.

He said that slavery made the other nations of the world feel that we were "not true to the Declaration of Independence," but that we were "really acting like hypocrites." He was speaking against slavery and not against the Southern people. "They are just what we would be in their situation. If slavery did not exist among them, they would not introduce it. If it did now exist among us, we should not instantly give it up."

Judge Douglas had declared with much irony in his words that the "white people of Nebraska are good enough to govern themselves, but they are not good enough to govern a few miserable negroes." This statement Lincoln answered by saying that "no man is good enough to govern

another man without that other's consent. The master governs the slave without his consent. I object to it because it says



*Sellers hurrying into Kansas Territory*

there can be moral right in one man enslaving another."

Douglas said that Lincoln had given him more trouble over the Kansas-Nebraska Bill than all the antislavery men in the United States Senate. Such words from so famous a debater were indeed a high compliment to Lincoln.

Lincoln had many calls to different parts of the state to make speeches on the Kansas-Nebraska question.

In Kansas troubles were coming thick and fast. Settlers from the free states and from the slave states were hurrying to that territory. Instead of settling the question of slavery by voting, they were setting fire to each other's homes and murdering one another. A body of United States soldiers had to be sent there to keep peace.

Lincoln made a powerful speech before a meeting of antislavery men held at Bloomington. He stirred the feelings of that big meeting by declaring "Kansas shall be free." "The greatest speech ever made in Illinois," said the men who heard it. Again and again the audience sprang to their feet and cheered.

All over the country the men opposed to slavery united in a great party named the Republican party. This party was determined there should be no more slave territory. Fremont was their candidate for President in 1856, and more than 1,300,000 men voted for him. Lincoln took a big *part* in this campaign. While Fremont

was not elected, Lincoln declared that if all were united in heart and soul, the next time the Republicans would be successful. Little did he or his audience think that he was to be the man to unite them.

In the year 1857 the Supreme Court of the United States handed down the famous Dred Scott Decision. By this decision a negro was a mere thing. He could be bought and sold like a horse, a cow, or a pig. The decision also stated that slavery, according to the Constitution, already existed in the territories of the United States, Congress and the Legislature to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Supreme Court made it very awkward for Senator Douglas, because the Kansas-Nebraska law said that the people of a territory could settle the question of slavery for themselves. It aimed a blow at the Republican party also, for this party had declared that Kansas should be free.

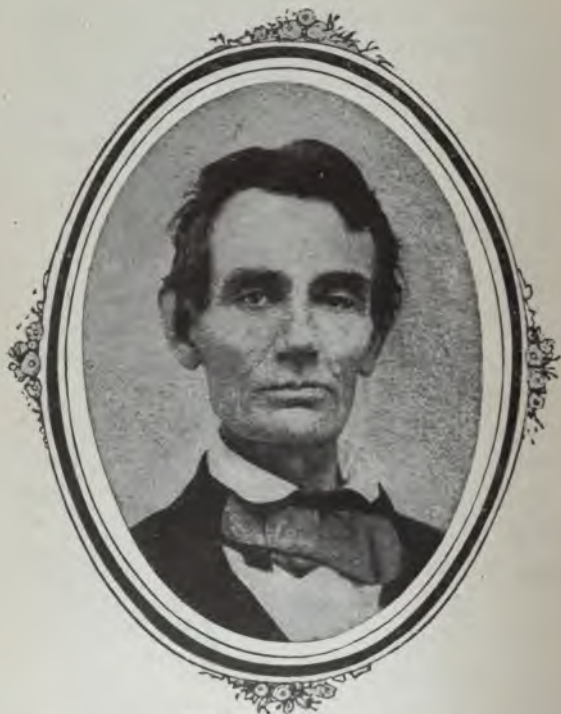
The Republicans were furious. They declared they would never stand by the decision, and demanded more resolutely

than ever that Kansas be a free state. Lincoln was alarmed. He said, "Only one more decision is needed, and slavery will go into every state in the Union." He sounded the alarm which awoke the Republicans of Illinois.

### "A House Divided Against Itself"

In June, 1858, the Republicans met in convention, in Springfield, and named Lincoln for United States Senator to take the place of Stephen A. Douglas. What an enthusiastic convention! Everywhere there were banners bearing mottoes. These showed that the Republicans were going in to win. The convention passed a resolution that "*Abraham Lincoln is the first and only choice of the Republicans of Illinois for the United States Senate.*" On that evening Lincoln spoke to a big audience. He said: "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently





ABRAHAM LINCOLN

*From a photograph taken in 1866 from an ambrotype made in  
Macomb, Illinois, in 1858, and reproduced through the  
courtesy of the owner, Mr. W. J. Franklin*

half slave and half free. I do not expect the house to fall, but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."

Lincoln went on to explain that just one more decision was needed to make slavery lawful in the North as well as in the South. This was a great speech, because it told the people of Illinois and the people of the United States what Lincoln really thought might happen. It was a wonderful speech, because it raised a new question. Lincoln made it so clear every man could see that only one more decision was needed to put slavery into every state of the North. Every man went home that night to ask himself, "Which shall it be? What is the use of compromise when in the end we must decide either in favor of freedom in all the states or in favor of slavery in all the states?"

Lincoln's closing words rang like a battle call: "Two years ago the Republicans of the nation mustered over thirteen hundred thousand strong. We did this



under the single impulse of resistance to a common danger. . . . We gathered from the four winds and formed and fought the battle through, under the constant hot fire of a disciplined, proud, and pampered enemy. Did we brave all then to falter now? If we stand firm we shall not fail."

Lincoln showed the first part of his speech to some friends. They begged him not to put in his speech the idea of the country's becoming all slave or all free. He asked, "Is it not true? Is it not just?" "Oh, yes! but Douglas will beat you if you put that in." Lincoln declared that he "would rather be defeated with this expression in the speech . . . than be victorious without it."

This great speech marked the end of one period of Lincoln's life and fortunes and the beginning of another. Men did not know it, but it marked the beginning of a new era in the history of slavery in this country. This speech is the speech of a statesman.

## The Lincoln-Douglas Debates

Douglas was greatly excited when he read Lincoln's address. He saw that it was very dangerous to let Democrats read that speech. The idea that slavery was going to be national and perpetual would take hold of Democrats and make them into Republicans. He was most anxious to show the people the great danger lurking in the speech, and how it really encouraged a war between the North and the South.

Douglas had won back his popularity in Chicago, and thousands cheered him to the echo as he made answer to the "House-Divided-against-Itself" speech. Lincoln had been invited to hear him and had a good seat. It was worth a long journey just to hear and see Douglas. He was below the medium height, but he was powerfully built—a stout neck and large head set on broad shoulders.

His mental machinery worked quickly. He saw far through an enemy's argument.

Sometimes Douglas "threw dust" in the eyes of his audience. No man equaled him in making "the worse appear the better reason."



*The statue of Lincoln  
by Augustus St. Gaudens,  
in Lincoln Park,  
Chicago*

Douglas sometimes looked down on Lincoln. In this speech he began by saying that Lincoln was "a kind-hearted man, a good-natured gentleman, a right good fellow, of great ability as a lawyer, and I have no doubt he has ability to become a United States Senator!"

He declared Lincoln in his speech was inviting the North and the South to make war on each other, and that Lincoln was guilty of opposing the decision of the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case. Douglas tore the speech to pieces, at least so he

believed, and so the Democrats believed.

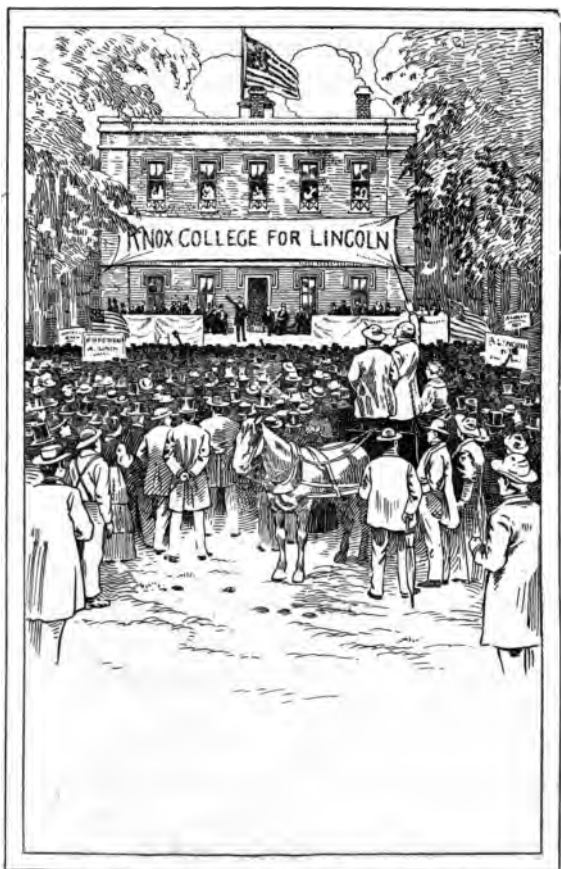
On the next night Lincoln made answer. He began in a playful way, saying that "Senator Douglas is of world-wide renown. All the anxious politicians of his party, or who have been of his party for years past, have been looking upon him certainly, at no distant day, to be President of the United States. They have seen in his round, jolly, fruitful face, post-offices, land-offices, marshalships . . . foreign missions, bursting and sprouting out in wonderful exuberance ready to be laid hold of by their greedy hands. . . . On the contrary nobody has ever expected me to be President. In my poor, lean, lank face nobody has ever seen that any cabbages were sprouting out."

Lincoln said that Douglas had not quoted his speech fairly. He denied that he ever meant to urge a war between the North and the South, and declared he had said many times that no one had a right to meddle with slavery in the states where it already existed. He was

opposed to the Dred Scott Decision, and all who believed in the Declaration of Independence ought to be opposed to that decision. The Republicans were greatly pleased, and once in the middle of his speech he had to stop while they gave "three cheers for Lincoln."

In a few days Douglas carried his campaigning right into Lincoln's own town of Springfield. He came with much pomp and show. Brass bands and cannon gave the signals that the great man was there. He attacked Lincoln's "House-Divided against-Itself" speech with more vigor than ever.

Lincoln made a reply that stirred the people. They began to talk of a "joint debate," in which the debaters took turns, while the audience listened. Douglas should have challenged Lincoln, because he was a more famous man. He had been a United States Senator for a long time. He had traveled in Europe, and had been twice before the National Democratic Convention for President.



*The Lincoln-Douglas debate at Galesburg*

But Douglas did not wish to challenge Lincoln. He knew that for many years Illinois had been solidly Democratic, and he did not want to be the means of drawing Democrats to hear him speak and then have Lincoln make Republicans out of them.

Finally Lincoln's friends told him that he must challenge Douglas. He did so, and Douglas said he would agree to seven joint debates on seven Saturdays in the towns of Ottawa, Freeport, Jonesboro, Charleston, Galesburg, Quincy, and Alton.

The battle opened in August. Almost everybody in Illinois tried to be at one of the meetings. People traveled long distances; many came a day or two before, and filled the hotels and boarding houses. They camped in the streets and in the groves around the towns.

On the day of the debate the people came in wagons all covered with banners and carrying mottoes. They came by the hundreds and by the thousands. All over the country, as well as in Illinois,

the people wanted to hear the debates. So the great newspapers in St. Louis, Chicago, and New York sent reporters to listen to the debates. The Democrats of the North were now beginning to waver a bit on the slavery question.

Douglas came to the place of debate with great show and parade. His beautiful wife came with him and took deep interest in all that was said and done. Douglas traveled in a special car, and sometimes he had a special train. His train of cars was covered with "streamers" bearing mottoes. Lincoln, on the other hand, traveled as best he could. No special car was provided for him. Sometimes he went on a freight train. Once when Lincoln was riding in the caboose of a freight train they had to stop on a side track to permit Douglas' fine train to sweep by. Lincoln laughingly said, "The gentleman in that car evidently smelt no royalty in our carriage."

Some of the Lincoln mottoes were full of interest, while others were a bit funny.



At one debate thirty-two young girls rode in a fine wagon, each representing a state of the Union. But a thirty-third young lady, representing Kansas, rode behind the wagon. Her motto was "I Will Be Free." A newspaper reporter declared that she was too good-looking to be free very long!

Some other mottoes were:

"Illinois born under the Ordinance of 1787."

'Free Territories and Free Men,  
Free Pulpits and Free Preachers,  
Free Press and a Free Pen,  
Free Schools and Free Teachers."

"Westward the star of empire takes its way,  
The girls link on to Lincoln; their mothers were  
for Clay."

"Abe the Giant-Killer."

"Edgar County for the Tall Sucker."

Douglas had a voice that could deepen into a roar. His eloquence was like the rush of a mighty storm, sweeping men from their feet before they had time to think. Douglas looked bigger than he was. He was well dressed. He was at home on the *platform*, where he walked about as one

having great confidence in himself. He had been in many a battle like this, and was bound to come off victor.

Lincoln was tall, slender, and awkward. His face was sad when he was not excited. His voice was light, but people a long distance away could hear him speak. His mental machinery was rather slow, but when his mind had worked out its links of logic, not even the eloquence of Douglas was able to break them. He was always earnest and sincere. His simple and unaffected words made men feel that he was seeking the truth. His gestures were as simple as his words, and when he was warmed up in debate he used his long bony finger to impress his audience.

In the debate at Ottawa, as in all the joint debates, both sides claimed the victory. The friends of Douglas were overjoyed at the splendid showing made by the "Little Giant." Lincoln's friends, not to be outdone, much against his will picked him up and bore him off on their shoulders.

In the debate at Freeport Lincoln proved himself the equal, if not the superior, of Douglas. He proved it by answering



Courtesy of Mr. Frank G. Logan

*Lincoln's knife  
and case*

seven questions Douglas had put to him. Then again he proved it by asking Douglas four questions.

Lincoln knew that in 1860 Douglas, in order to be President, would have to have the votes of the men in the South who were trying to make Kansas a slave state.

He also knew that Douglas, in order to be Senator, would have to have the votes of the people of Illinois. Lincoln was resolved that Douglas should not have both sets of votes. To keep Douglas from getting both sets of votes he put one of the hardest questions ever asked a man in joint debate.

Here is the one fatal question of the four that he put to Douglas: "Can the people of a United States territory (Kansas, for *instance*) in any lawful way, against the

wish of any citizen of the United States, exclude slavery from its limits prior to the formation of a State Constitution?"

Lincoln showed his questions to some friends. They saw only the danger to Lincoln. "Do not put that question," they said. "If you do, Douglas will be Senator." They thought only of Lincoln's being Senator. But Lincoln replied, "I am after larger game."

Just as Lincoln's friends had feared, Douglas sprang to the answer and declared that the people of a territory, by passing laws against slavery, could drive it out. By this answer, Douglas held the people of Illinois. He won the Senatorship, but lost the Presidency. As fast as the news of this answer spread over the South the people there declared they would never support Douglas for President. They carried this resolution into effect in 1860, when the Democratic party split in two rather than vote for Douglas.

The debates went on. Lincoln repeated his questions in many places and Douglas

answered them. So the people of the whole country came to know just where each man stood on the slavery question.

Douglas tried to fasten on Lincoln the charge of being an Abolitionist, and accused him of teaching that the negro was his political and social equal. Lincoln replied that he did not believe that the negro was his political and social equal. "But," he said, "in the right to eat the bread, without the leave of anybody else, which his own hand earns, he is my equal, and the equal of Judge Douglas, and the equal of every living man."

Douglas had said many times, "I do not care whether slavery is voted up or voted down." "That is logical," said Lincoln, "if you do not admit that slavery is wrong. If you admit that slavery is wrong you cannot say that you do not care whether a wrong is voted up or voted down. That is the issue that will continue in this country when these poor tongues of Judge Douglas and myself *shall be silent*. It is the eternal struggle

between these two principles, right and wrong, throughout the world."

Long before the debates were ended Lincoln's friends caught fresh enthusiasm. They felt that his speeches were greater than those of Douglas. They saw clearly that, on moral grounds, Lincoln had the best of the debates. When discussing the right and wrong of questions Lincoln's tones rang out like the voice of a prophet of old.

### Lincoln before the People of the United States

When Lincoln went home from the last debate he was a man of national reputation. From every part of the country except the South came calls for him to speak to the people. From Kansas, from Minnesota, from Iowa, from Ohio, from New York, and from different places in New England came the call for Lincoln. The people were hungry to hear the man who had braved the "Little Giant" and had given him such a shaking up.

But Lincoln did not seem to understand that these demands were proofs that he was truly one of the great men of the nation. He said smilingly, "I have been a great man such a mighty little time that I am not used to it yet." He always put too small a value on himself.

But his friends understood the meaning of it all. They were greatly pleased when the call came for a speech to be given in Cooper Union, New York. They rejoiced that he had been invited to the largest city in America, the home of Horace Greeley. Greeley was editor of the *New York Tribune*, the greatest antislavery newspaper printed in the whole United States.

The day for the speech came. Cooper Union was jammed with the best people in the city of New York, all curious to hear Lincoln. The beloved poet, William Cullen Bryant, was president of the meeting. Horace Greeley was there, with many other equally famous persons. Lincoln gave them a truly great speech. In the *next morning's Tribune*, Greeley said:

"The vast assemblage frequently rang with cheers and shouts of applause. . . . No man ever before made such an impression on his first appeal to a New York audience."

After Lincoln's return to Illinois the people began to speak of him for President. A few friends had already spoken to him. In reply Lincoln said: "What's the use of talking of me for the Presidency whilst we have such men as Seward, Chase, and others? Everybody knows them; and nobody scarcely outside of Illinois knows me." Another friend he advised not to give it further mention. "I do not think myself fit for the Presidency." But his friends in Illinois kept on working to have him nominated.

When the state convention met in the town of Decatur in May, 1860, the Lincoln feeling was running high. The governor was the chairman of the convention. The hall was crowded with Illinois delegates. Just at the right time, two men came into the hall carrying two



rails and a banner. On the banner were the following words: "Abraham Lincoln, the rail candidate for President in 1860.



*The Wigwam, Chicago*

Two rails from a lot of 3,000 made in 1830 by Thos. Hanks and Abe Lincoln, whose father was the first pioneer of Macon County." The crowd went wild as the two men marched into the hall. The delegates caught up Lincoln, lifted him above their heads, and carried him to the platform amid the cheering, yelling crowd. When Lincoln reached the stand the cheering rose again. He had to make a

speech. After the speech the convention passed a resolution declaring Lincoln to be the choice of the Republicans of Illinois for President. The delegates were told to "use all honorable means to secure his nomination."

The Republicans held their national convention in Chicago. The city was duly proud of the fact, and just for the meeting had built a large wooden building called the Wigwam. The people came from near and far and filled the city with cheering crowds, with banners and with music. They did not all cheer for Lincoln, however.

A great man from the state of New York, Senator Seward, was a favorite. Seward had been governor of New York and had been United States Senator for more than ten years.

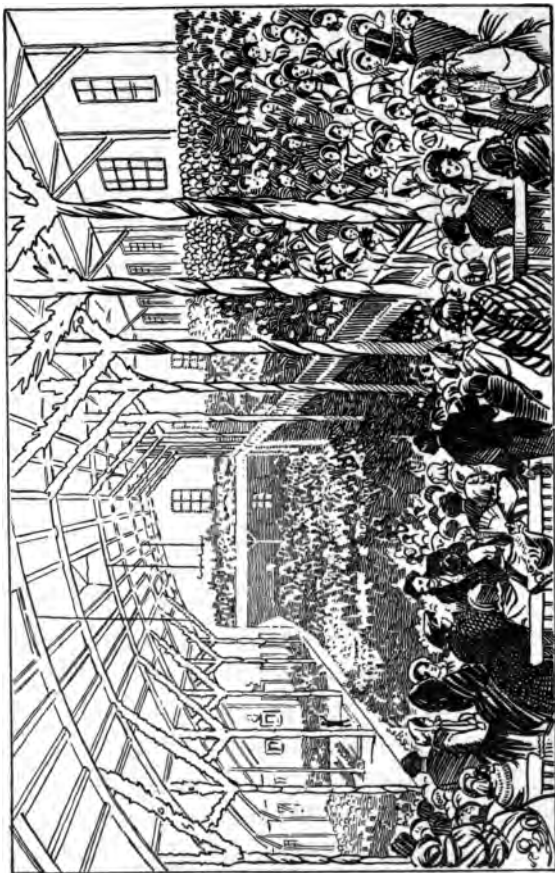
While everybody knew Seward, not every one knew Lincoln. But Chicago was a Lincoln town, and every street was hung with Lincoln banners.

When the great convention met, the first count showed that Seward had the

largest number of votes. When they voted the second time, it was seen that Lincoln was gaining, and when they were casting the vote for the third time, long before it came to an end they knew that Abraham Lincoln would be nominated. The Wigwam shook with cheers for Lincoln, and the booming of cannon told the people of the city that Lincoln was nominated for President.

Down in Springfield, Lincoln was standing in the doorway of a newspaper office. A boy ran up with a telegram telling of his nomination. Lincoln read the telegram, and, turning to the friends crowded around him, said: "As there is a little woman down on Eighth Street who will be glad to hear the news, you must excuse me until I inform her."

From Chicago came a number of men sent by the convention to tell Lincoln of his nomination. When the head man had spoken, and Lincoln had replied, they were invited to go into another room where Mrs. Lincoln would give them something



*The interior of the Wigwam during the Republican convention*

to drink. In those days "something to drink" meant whisky. What was the surprise of these men when cold water was given them. Lincoln simply said that he would not break his custom now.



From the Byron Reed Collection  
in the Omaha Public Library

*A Lincoln campaign  
medal*

So many people came to see him that the governor gave him a room in the State Capitol. Here he talked over the prospects of the campaign with leading Republicans and greeted all who came to see him with a hearty handshake.

This was an odd campaign. Three candidates were in the field besides Lincoln. The Democratic party split. The Northern part nominated Douglas for President, while the Southern part nominated Breckenridge. A third party, called the Constitutional Union party, had a candidate. This party wanted the people to stop quarreling over slavery and all

support the Constitution and the Union. But the people would not stop, for they wanted the slavery question settled one way or the other.

Lincoln did not "take the stump" as did Douglas, but remained in Springfield.

The campaign grew hot, and men became more and more excited as the summer passed into fall. "Wide Awake" clubs were formed in many cities of the North. The men marched in torchlight processions, wearing glazed oilcloth caps and capes.

Lincoln was called the "Rail-splitter Candidate," and fence rails were to be seen which were supposed to have been made by Lincoln. But "Honest old Abe" was the name the orators in the campaign loved to use.

Lincoln came in for many hard words that men would be glad to forget to-day. Some said that "he was only a third-rate country lawyer" and could not be expected to do much, if elected. Others made sport of his jokes and declared that "he could not speak good grammar."

In the North public opinion was rising in Lincoln's favor, in spite of such statements, and when the November days came, and the election was held, Lincoln received more votes than any other candidate. There was a great outburst of rejoicing in the North. The Republican party had won a national victory for the first time in its history.

But pretty soon news came up from the Southland that South Carolina and several other Southern states had left the Union. Before Lincoln took his seat as President these states had formed a Southern Confederacy and had elected Jefferson Davis president.

After his election, Lincoln was busy getting ready his inaugural speech, selecting his Cabinet, and watching the course of events, especially in Congress. Here the members from the South were already making farewell speeches. Some of these speeches bade defiance to the Union, while others were made in a spirit of regret *and* sorrow.

## Saying Good-by to Old Friends

When the time drew near to go to Washington, Lincoln and his wife went to Chicago. Here Mrs. Lincoln bought the first silk dress she ever wore. While they were unpacking Lincoln said, with a twinkle in his eye: "Well, wife, if nothing else comes out of this scrape, we are going to have some new clothes, are we not?"

Although soon to be President, Lincoln had not forgotten "the simple woman who had brought sunshine into his desolate boyhood, whose faithful hands had clothed him, and who had given him a chance to go to school." He first journeyed to the grave of his father, and then turned his steps to Charleston, Illinois, where his mother now made her home. The people were gathered in great crowds to cheer him to her humble house. The parting with his mother after the visit was very sad, for she feared that bad men would kill him. Tears ran down his cheeks as he bent to kiss her good-by.



Once more in Springfield, he was visited by many old friends. Even Hannah Armstrong came from Clary's Grove to bid Lincoln farewell.

He went to the law office of Lincoln and Herndon. He threw himself upon the old office sofa. A far-away look was in his face. "Billy, how long have we been together?" he asked his partner.

"Over sixteen years."

Starting to go, he paused, and said of the old signboard at the foot of the stairway, "Let it hang there undisturbed." He took a last look at the room in which he had spent so many happy hours. Then he and his partner walked slowly down the stairs.

Herndon wrote this letter to a friend in New England: "Lincoln is a man of heart, ay, as gentle as a woman's and as tender—but he has a will as strong as iron. He, therefore, loves all mankind, hates slavery, and every form of despotism. On a question of justice, right, liberty, *the government*, the Constitution, and

the Union, you may stand aside; he will rule them, and no man can rule him—no set of men can do it. There is no fail here. This is Lincoln. You and I must keep the people right; God will keep Lincoln right."

The time to say good-by to the people of Springfield had come. Lincoln was at the station, shaking hands with the hundreds that came for a last look at that tall, awkward, yet lovable man.

With his hand on the bell rope the engineer waited a few moments while Lincoln, hat in hand, spoke his last words to the people of Springfield: "My friends, no one not in my situation can appreciate my feelings of sadness at this parting. To this place and the kindness of these people I owe everything. Here I have



*Lincoln's office bookcase, chair,  
and inkstand*

lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when or whether ever I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell." Lincoln was greatly moved by the show of the people's affection. They stood with uncovered heads, and with eyes full of tears, and watched the car pull out of sight. Lincoln remained on the platform of the car as long as he could see any one. He then went in. Thus closed another chapter in *the book of his career*.

## On the Way to Washington

The people saw the coming of the storm and were most anxious to look upon the man who was to guide the Ship of State through its troubled waters. At every station they greeted him, and hung on his words. Every word seemed to bear in its tone the fate of the nation. The plain people were mightily pleased with what they saw and heard.

Lincoln was two weeks on the journey, for then trains traveled much more slowly than now. Besides, the party generally stayed over night to give the people an opportunity to shake hands with Lincoln and to hear him speak.

The first stop for the night was in Indianapolis. Here the people seized Lincoln's carriage and carried him more than a square. At Cincinnati a great multitude gave him a rousing reception.

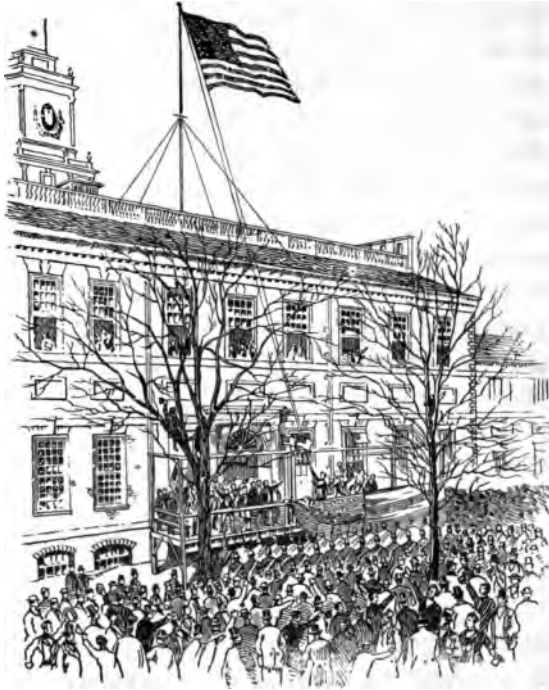
Once before he had spoken in Cincinnati. Then as now he said what he had to say

to the Kentuckians. "We mean to recognize and bear in mind always that you have as good hearts in your bosoms as other people, or as we claim to have." When he had finished speaking, the crowd rushed upon him, patted him on the back, and almost tore his arm off in order to show that they were with him.

At Columbus, Ohio, Lincoln spoke to the Legislature. In Pittsburgh, where he talked on the protection of American industry, the people went wild, and it required the police and the militia to protect him from the noisy crowd. At Cleveland, Buffalo, Albany, and New York great cheering crowds greeted him.

Lincoln did not reach Philadelphia until February 21. Here he heard there was a plot to kill him while he was going through Baltimore.

On the morrow, Washington's birthday, Lincoln raised a new flag over Independence Hall. A vast crowd witnessed the ceremony and listened to his address. *It was an unprepared address and came*



*Raising the flag over Independence Hall*

direct from the heart: "I can say in return, sir, that all the political sentiments I entertain have been drawn . . . from the sentiments which originated in and were

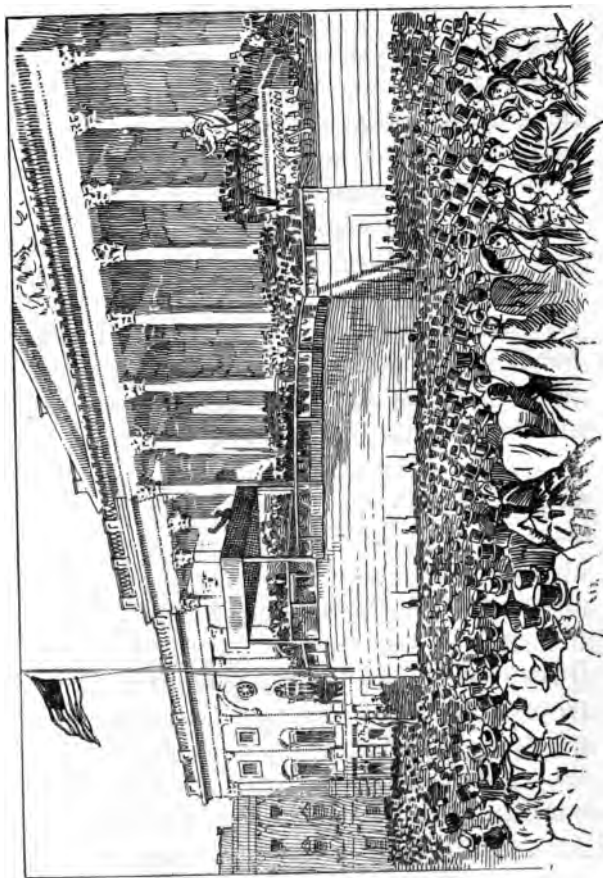
to talk about his Cabinet. Others came to tell him how to save the country, and still others out of curiosity.

Lincoln had chosen his Cabinet in Springfield on the night after election. Statesmen and politicians gave their advice for or against the men Lincoln had thought ought to be his chief advisers. But no reason given by any one led him to change his mind.

Now more serious business than talking about the Cabinet demanded Lincoln's attention. Rumors were thick that the President was to be murdered before or on Inauguration Day. Washington contained thousands and thousands of people who did not wish Lincoln well.

General Scott was commander of the army. He had gathered his soldiers and put them in different places to keep order or to be ready at a moment's notice to put down any effort to prevent Lincoln's inauguration.

As the fourth of March drew near, *hundreds* of clerks in Washington, and



*The inauguration of President Lincoln*



officers in the army, were resigning and going South to join the Confederacy. This threw things into confusion, and gave Lincoln a great deal of trouble.

On Inauguration Day President Buchanan rode in the White House carriage to Willard's Hotel. Down Pennsylvania Avenue Lincoln and the President moved between double rows of cavalry. Little bands of riflemen had been placed on housetops. Soldiers marched in front of, and behind, the carriage.

A little after twelve o'clock Lincoln made his way to the east side of the unfinished Capitol to read his inaugural address and to take the oath of office. A great multitude looked up into his face. A body of soldiers stood near the steps. Others looked with sharp eyes from their places in the windows of the Capitol, while a battery of flying artillery in the rear of the crowd stood ready at a moment's warning. No such care had ever before been taken when a President was to be inaugurated.

As Lincoln stepped forward to speak, he took off his new silk hat, but could find no place to put it. Senator Douglas quickly stepped forward and took the hat. "If I can't be President," he said, "I at least can hold his hat."

Lincoln's address was both firm and friendly. He declared that he stood by the Constitution and the laws, and that the Government would begin war upon no one. He begged the South not to go out of the Union. He compared North and South with husband and wife who are divorced. Husband and wife may go out from each other's presence, but not so North and South. They cannot separate. They must stay where they are. "I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle field and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of

the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

Thus ended one of the most touching appeals ever made by any President. It was an appeal for peace and for the Union.

Washington was full of the well-wishers of the Confederacy. That night Senator Douglas, with Mrs. Lincoln on his arm, swept down the great hall at the inaugural ball. Douglas took great pains to let it be known that he was standing by Lincoln in this hour of great trial.

## The Storm Breaks

The ceremonies over, Lincoln had time to think, providing he kept out of the way of the office seekers. Swarms of them dogged his footsteps wherever he turned.

One day the news came that Major Anderson, who commanded the troops in Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, had food supplies for only a short time. The *great men* of the Cabinet seemed to be in

favor of giving up Fort Sumter. General Scott was called; he, too, thought it best to surrender this fort to South Carolina and Fort Pickens to Florida.

The President did not close his eyes in sleep that night. "What will be the effect on the North and on the South?" In the dark hours of the night it seemed to Lincoln like giving up everything without striking a blow. By morning he had made up his mind. Food must be sent to Fort Sumter and soldiers to Fort Pickens.

Before the ship with food reached Fort Sumter the Confederate cannon had opened fire. It was on a quiet morning in April, 1861, that a shell from the batteries in Charleston suddenly tore its way across the harbor and opened the greatest civil war in all history.

News of the surrender of Fort Sumter reached the White House on Sunday morning. That same afternoon Douglas called upon Lincoln, and for two hours the two leaders talked over the situation. On Monday morning Lincoln's call for

75,000 men went forth. Parallel with it, on the wings of the telegraph, went the



From a war-time photo

*The interior of Fort Sumter after the bombardment*

words of Senator Douglas, that he was standing by the President in his resolution "to preserve the Union, maintain the Government, and defend the Federal capital." To the more than a million Democrats who went down in defeat in 1860, this was a summons to do their duty. How nobly they answered the call of their leader! The entire North, as one man, sprang to arms!

"We will furnish the largest number you will receive," telegraphed the governor of Ohio. Indiana's number was less than 5,000; but that state soon had 10,000 men ready to march at a moment's warning. "You may have 50,000 men," telegraphed Chandler of Michigan. The North was rising.

Nearly 100,000 were offered by the free states in spite of the fact that the call was for only 75,000.

Soon the news spread that the Confederates were marching on Washington. Union troops were hurried to the city. But trains did not run fast enough. The people of Washington were frightened. Even Lincoln was greatly disturbed because Union troops did not come as soon as expected.

"Why don't they come! Why don't they come!" he was overheard to exclaim. But he did not dare let the people know he was even anxious.



Lent to  
Chicago Hist  
Soc. by Mr.  
J. C. Netter-  
strom

*A war  
cane  
presented  
to Lincoln*

The first troops to arrive came from Pennsylvania, four hundred sixty men. A regiment of troops from Massachusetts fought their way through the streets of Baltimore to reach Washington. How glad the President and the people of Washington were to see these soldiers as they marched up Pennsylvania Avenue, drums beating, flags flying, and bayonets gleaming! The capital was safe.

In July the battle of Bull Run took place across the Potomac from Washington. This was the first battle of any size and was an overwhelming defeat for the Union troops. Back to Washington rushed the defeated troops in wild confusion. Congressmen and citizens who had gone out to see the battle came back and declared the Confederates would be in the city before morning. The troops, tired, hungry, defeated, came straggling in. Some fell in their tracks. Many people began to leave the city. Lincoln was the calmest man in Washington.

Congress gave Lincoln all the men and







ABRAHAM LINCOLN

*From a statue by Adolph A. Weinman, in the Court-House  
Square at Hodgenville, Kentucky*

money asked for. Lincoln appointed George B. McClellan commander, and that general made a fine army out of the men sent to Washington.

### Shutting Up the Ports of the South

What if Lincoln should order the ports of the South closed? Would it not starve the South by shutting in her cotton and shutting out clothing, guns, and other things which came from Europe? Lincoln decided to close the ports and ordered the little navy to keep Confederates in and foreigners out.

Without cotton from the South the cotton mills of England will stop. Thousands of men will be out of work. What will England say?

The governments of England and France agreed to say that the Confederates must be treated as men with the "rights of war."

Lincoln had not expected this action, but could not help it. The Confederates were greatly pleased.

To encourage England and France the Confederacy sent over two men named Mason and Slidell. These men were sent to ask England and France to declare that the states of the Confederacy should be looked upon as an independent country.

Just as these two men were escaping on the English steamer "Trent" they were captured by a United States war vessel commanded by Captain Wilkes.

When the news reached the North the people were wild with joy, but Lincoln shook his head and said, "We fought Great Britain [1812] for insisting . . . on the right to do exactly what Captain Wilkes has done. If Great Britain shall . . . demand their [the prisoners] release, we must give them up."

England was furious. She started soldiers to Canada, and her government wrote an ugly letter which good Queen Victoria softened a great deal before permitting it to be sent. It was indeed great good fortune that England and the United States had two cool-headed rulers.

Mason and Slidell reached England, but tried in vain to secure favorable action for the Confederacy. They had hoped that England and France would at least do something to open their ports.

The South, in the meantime, was depending on the "Merrimac" to break the blockade. This vessel had been covered with a coat of iron in Norfolk Harbor. It had a great iron beak with which it could ram wooden vessels. Near Norfolk were the Union vessels. The "Merrimac" now moved out to the attack. The shot from the Union vessels rolled off her iron back as hail rolls off a roof! She sank the wooden vessels. What was to hinder her from going up the Potomac to Washington? The President quickly ordered canal boats filled with stone to be sunk in a narrow place in the Potomac.

Lincoln hoped the "Monitor," which was on her way to Hampton Roads, would meet the "Merrimac." This strange craft, looking "like a cheese box on a raft," reached Hampton Roads and took

her place by the light of the burning "Congress," a vessel set on fire by the "Merrimac."



From Mace's School History of the United States  
*The struggle between the "Monitor" and the "Merrimac"*

The next morning the two ironclads met in battle. It was a battle of giants. "Why do you stop firing?" asked an officer on the "Merrimac." The gunner replied, "I can do her as much damage by snapping my thumb at her every two minutes and a half."


It was a drawn battle. But the North could make scores of ironclads, while the South could make but few. Wooden vessels now began to go out of use, and iron ones to take their place.

In the meantime Lincoln had ordered a forward march of McClellan's army. The army went to Yorktown and then turned up the Peninsula toward Richmond. There was hard fighting, and many days of it. General Lee, who was in command of the Confederates, hurled McClellan's forces back. Lincoln was greatly disappointed in McClellan's failure to take Richmond.

But there was no time to "cry over spilled milk," for Lee was plunging into Maryland. McClellan was sent after him. The two armies met at Antietam. A great battle was fought. Lee recrossed the Potomac, but McClellan did not follow up Lee's army as Lincoln had ordered.

### Trying to Find a Great General

McClellan, who had taken the place of General Scott, was a great man in many ways, but he believed that he never had the army quite ready, or never had enough men. Lincoln had been very patient with



him, but when he failed to strike Lee a blow before the Confederates crossed the Potomac, Lincoln dismissed him.

General Burnside was put in his place, much against his wish. After getting the Union army in shape he crossed the Rappahannock River and stormed the heights of Fredericksburg. But Lee, behind his breastworks, defeated the Union army. Burnside had failed.

Lincoln named General Hooker for the head of the army. He fought the battle of Chancellorsville, but Lee again overwhelmed the Union forces and started with his veterans to invade the North.

Lincoln was watching his movements. A great fear fell on the North. The President removed Hooker and put General Meade in his place. A terrific battle lasting three days was fought at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. On the third day Pickett, a Confederate general, made his famous charge, but the Union troops held their position.

After the battle Lincoln commanded

Meade to strike Lee. But a second time Lee was permitted to cross the Potomac. It was now midsummer, 1863, and very few Union victories had been won in the eastern part of the United States.

Early in the war Lincoln began watching the movements of a man in the West. General Grant had been in business at Galena, Illinois. He was a West Point man. Grant captured Fort Henry on the Tennessee and moved against Fort Donelson on the Cumberland, which he captured after hard fighting. Lincoln was greatly pleased with the dispatch he sent the commander of Fort Donelson: "No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works."

At Pittsburg Landing Grant fought a two days' battle and won. But the great loss of men and the shattered state of the army caused men to demand Grant's removal. "I can't spare him. He *fight*s," was Lincoln's reply. From Corinth to Vicksburg there was plenty of fighting.



Then followed the terrible siege and the surrender of Vicksburg. Another outburst of joy ran through the North. There was a serenade at the White House that night. "I do most sincerely thank Almighty God for the occasion on which you have called," said Lincoln to the serenaders.

Bragg was besieging Rosecrans in Chattanooga when General Grant was sent to take command. The siege was raised, and Bragg was driven away. Now Lincoln waited no longer. He had found the man he wanted. General Grant was called to Washington and made commander of all the Union armies (1864).

## Uprooting Slavery

Long before this time Lincoln had begun to uproot slavery. Early in the war Congress passed a resolution that the purpose of the war was to restore the Union and not to injure slavery in any way. This resolution the President signed in good faith. But slavery would not be

let alone. As soon as the war was under way, the Confederates began to use negroes as cooks, as servants in the army, and to aid in making forts. Not only this, but thousands of negroes at home were raising crops to feed the Confederate armies.

Lincoln soon saw that all these things permitted every white man of the South to go to the front with a gun in his hand. When, therefore, General Butler declared the negroes who came to his army "contraband of war," Lincoln permitted it. By "contraband of war" was meant that these negroes were property being used in the war.

Congress went still further and declared that all slaves who were engaged in fighting for the Confederacy should be free.

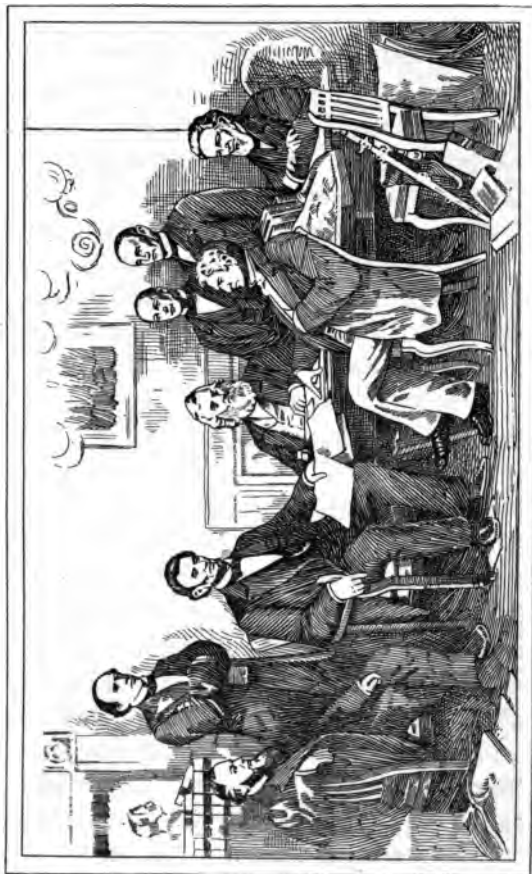
Lincoln saw that slavery would be wiped out by the war. He wished to hasten it, and so began to urge the border states to begin the work of freeing their own slaves. He had Congress pass a resolution to pay the masters if they would set their slaves

free. Lincoln had a warm place in his heart for the noble battle the Union men in these states were carrying on. Yet not a single slave was set free by any of these states.

In the summer of 1862, after this plan had failed, Lincoln was thinking about sending out a proclamation of emancipation. He called his Cabinet together to ask their advice as to the best time for sending forth such a proclamation. "Let us wait," said a member, "until the Northern arms have won a great victory, then send forth this proclamation." So it was put aside to wait for a victory.

The victory at Antietam came in the fall. Lincoln thought the victory not such a one as he would like to have had, but concluded to send forth the great proclamation giving liberty to the slaves.

This blow did not fall at once. Lincoln gave the Confederate states one hundred days in which to stop fighting and save slavery. They did not do so, and on January 1, 1863, the proclamation became



From a painting by Frank B. Carpenter in the Capitol at Washington

*Lincoln reading the Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet*

a law. Many of the Confederates were very angry over this act of Lincoln's. President Jefferson Davis declared it was a wicked measure. But the time came when the Confederacy itself passed an act giving freedom to slaves who fought for the South.

Lincoln did not free the slaves in the way he wished. He believed in destroying slavery little by little; but war forced him to free the slaves at once.

### Life in the White House

By birth both Lincoln and his wife were Kentuckians. To that little family came much of the sorrow that belonged to those who had kinsfolk fighting on both sides.

In the dreadful loss at Pittsburg Landing, among the Confederates was a brother who had been, in his younger days, the pride and joy of Mrs. Lincoln's heart. Now he lay cold in death on the field of battle as his sister opened a great Union ball to celebrate Grant's victory.

The saddest event of the White House

was the death of Willie Lincoln. He was a bright, manly little fellow a little more than twelve years old, and the father's grief was indeed great. He shut the doors of the White House and in his sorrow found help in the words spoken by the Rev. Mr. Vinton, a friend of the family. Only little Tad was left to cheer him, for his eldest son, Robert, was away at Harvard.

*Willie Lincoln*

But not all the happenings at the White House were sad. The receptions took place regularly, and the President shook hands with the people in the long line as they passed by. If there chanced to be a friend among them, Lincoln whispered to him to call "between hours."

When the cares of office were put aside, Lincoln seemed himself again. He forgot his sorrows and gave full vent to the joy of story-telling. Often men who saw him

for the first time drew unjust conclusions concerning his character. They did not



*Tad Lincoln,  
in the uniform of a  
lieutenant of the  
United States Army*

know of the long hours given to business, nor of his mighty sorrow over the dead and wounded after a great battle.

But here the quiet of his own rooms he was the Illinois lawyer again, riding the old circuit. Here he told stories and laughed with his friends to his heart's content.

A great man blamed him one day for being so light-hearted and so free from care while all around him were cast down. Suddenly Lincoln became sad and said, "I should die were it not for these hours of good cheer."

Lincoln was not a man who believed in ceremony, but he could use it when there was need. Senator Charles Sumner loved formality, and the President knew it.

So when Sumner called, Lincoln always received him with the greatest dignity. When the Senator had departed, Lincoln "put on his easy manners," and said: "When among the Romans we must do as Romans do."

One day he was made glad by the coming of an old friend from Illinois. This friend kept speaking to him as "Mr. President." "Now call me Lincoln, and I'll promise not to tell," said the President, jokingly.

The American people never have had, and perhaps never will have, a more democratic President. He loved all men, especially the plain people. He greatly enjoyed the days on which he kept open house. He liked to take the people by the hand and look into their faces. He called such occasions "public opinion baths." When one of these "open house" days was over he could truly say that he knew more about public opinion than any man in Congress. "I don't want to know what Washington society thinks," he would say at times.



## Lincoln's Love for the Soldier

"I make the brigadiers, but the Almighty made the common soldier," said Lincoln. He seemed a comrade. He took off his hat when he met the soldier, but a simple touching of the hat was enough for the officer. It was reported to Lincoln that a brigadier and twelve mules had been captured by the Confederates near Washington. "How unfortunate! I can fill that brigadier's place in five minutes, but mules cost us two hundred dollars apiece."

One of Lincoln's duties was to visit the sick and wounded in the hospitals near by. He went down the long rows of cots, laying his great hands upon the fevered brows of the men and speaking words of hope and cheer.

A touching story is told which shows Lincoln's generous soul. A boy of nineteen, a soldier, was ordered to escort Lincoln through the hospital at City Point, Virginia. "I could not but note

his gentleness, his friendly greetings to the sick and wounded." Finally they came to three wards of sick and wounded Southern soldiers. The young man said to Lincoln: "Mr. President, you won't want to go in there; they are only *rebels*." "I will never forget," said the young soldier, "how he stopped and gently laid his large hand upon my shoulder and quietly answered, 'You mean *Confederates*.' And I have meant Confederates ever since.

"I could not see but that he was just as kind, his hand-shakings just as hearty, his interest just as real for the welfare of the men, as when he was among our own soldiers."

When Stonewall Jackson was slain at the battle of Chancellorsville a Washington paper published an article giving high praise to that noble defender of the Confederate cause. Lincoln wrote a personal letter to the editor, praising him for the stand he had taken.

As he was going to a hospital one day the driver came near running over a young

blind man. Lincoln got out and saw that both eyes had been shot out. He took him



Courtesy of  
Mr. Frank  
G. Logan

*Lincoln's  
favorite  
cane. It  
was made  
from a rib  
of the  
"Merrimac,"  
and was  
presented to  
Lincoln by  
a New York  
regiment*

by the hand, asked for his name, the time of his service, and where he was wounded. He then told the young man that Abraham Lincoln was speaking. The soldier's face lighted with joy. He thanked the President for his kindness. The next day a commission as first lieutenant was put into the soldier's hands. It carried with it three-fourths pay for life.

One day, for good reasons it seemed, Stanton refused a soldier's request. Early on the following morning Lincoln hastened to the man's home and asked his forgiveness. He took the soldier in his carriage and helped him to get what he wanted. Secretary Stanton apologized for having refused the soldier's request. "No, no! You did right," said Lincoln. "If we had such a soft-headed old fool as I am

in your place, there would be no rules that army or country could depend upon."

One time he said to General Butler: "I should like to ride along the lines and see the boys." So along the lines of soldiers he went until within three hundred yards of the Confederate pickets. "You are a fair rifle shot. They may open fire on you," said Butler. "The commander in chief must show no cowardice in the presence of his soldiers, whatever he may feel," replied Lincoln.

Every soldier who carried a musket was a son of Lincoln's. All soldiers were his children, and hardly more than children were the defenders of the Union. Of the two and a half million that enlisted for the war, more than two million were boys under twenty-one.

No soldier in trouble needed a great man to see Lincoln for him. His own story was all the proof Lincoln needed. "If he has no friends," said the President, "I'll be his friend."

The story is often told of William Scott,

a soldier boy who was condemned to be shot for sleeping at his post. The boy was born among the hills of Vermont. When the war came he was among the first to enlist. As the story goes, the army, hard pressed, had marched forty-eight hours without sleep. A young friend of William Scott's was too sick to stand guard, and Scott volunteered to take his place. But sleep overtook him while standing guard. Now he must die for it.

To die in battle would be glorious, but to die the death of a coward at the hands of his comrades was more than a brave heart could endure.

President Lincoln heard of the case and went to the tent where William Scott was kept under guard. He talked to him of his old home, of his schoolmates, of his parents, and particularly of his mother. The boy showed him her picture, which he took from his pocketbook. The lad could not speak, so deep was his feeling. Lincoln was touched by the boy's simple story.

"You are not going to be shot to-morrow," said the President. "I am going



*"The boy showed him her picture"*

to send you back to your regiment. Now, what do you intend to pay for all of this?" The poor boy could not speak at first, he was so overcome. Pretty soon he said that he did not know. His parents

were poor, but he was sure they would do all they could. There was a small sum in the savings bank and the parents could mortgage the old farm. There was the bounty and his pay. Perhaps, too, his comrades would raise some. Would it all be enough?

But Lincoln shook his head and said: "My bill is a great deal more than that. It is a very large one. Your friends, your family, your farm cannot pay it. There is only one man in the world who can pay it, and his name is William Scott. If from this day he does his duty as a soldier, then the debt will be paid." His hand rested kindly on the boy's head. He looked full into his face while the boy pledged his life to the Union.

How soon William Scott paid the debt! In that fatal Peninsular Campaign he and his young comrades were the first to charge in the face of blazing rifle pits. When the retreat was sounded, Scott was among those that came not. He had paid the debt in full.

## Elected Again

When the war began, Lincoln had the support of the people in the North. In the death of Douglas he suffered a great loss. Very likely Douglas would have held all Northern Democrats faithful to the Union. As it was, the great majority remained steadfast. Freeing the negroes was another thing that tended to drive men to vote against Lincoln. They said it is now not a war for the Union but a struggle to free the slaves. How strange it was that in the North so many people were opposed to setting the slaves free. They showed their opposition when it came to electing Congressmen in the fall of 1862. Many of the great states that had given Lincoln a big majority in 1860 now turned and voted for Democratic Congressmen.

Some of his own party also gave him trouble. They were the men who stood for strong measures. They blamed Lincoln because he did not turn General



McClellan out long before he did. They early called for freeing the negroes and thought Lincoln was too slow. These men hit upon General Fremont as the man to be President in Lincoln's stead. Fremont had been the first candidate of the Republican party for President. Now they wrote and talked a great deal about him for the Presidency, but when it came to the test only a few hundred met and nominated Fremont. Finally he withdrew.

Lincoln was really the candidate of the plain people. The politicians had tried to get Chase, his great financial secretary, to run against him for the nomination in 1864, as he had done in 1860. Chase was willing, but the people were not.

The spring and summer were gloomy times. The Republicans changed their name to the National Union party to hold the votes of the men who would not vote for Republicans. The great Union party met at Baltimore and named Abraham Lincoln for President and Andrew Johnson for Vice-president. The convention was

bubbling over with Lincoln enthusiasm. It declared in favor of pushing the war for the freedom of the slaves, and denounced all who were not in favor of saving the Union.

But the awful loss of life in the Wilderness Campaign soon checked the spirits of the Union party. The President himself was about to give up hope of reelection.

Those Democrats in favor of ending the war were bold and aggressive. At their convention in Chicago they declared the war a failure, and made an out and out demand for peace. McClellan was nominated to run against Lincoln. But hardly had the Democrats reached home before a number of brilliant victories proved the war was not a failure, and that peace was bound to come with the Confederate armies broken and shattered.



Courtesy of The  
Youth's Companion

*The Lincoln Tower of Christ Church, Southwark, London. The cost of this tower was met by contributions half in English sixpences and half in American dimes*

Lincoln was the same quiet, sad, fun-loving story-teller. A general made a speech for McClellan for President, and some one ordered him driven out of the army. But Lincoln put a stop to this: "Supporting a general for the Presidency," he said, "is no violation of army regulations, and as a question of taste in choosing between him and me—well, I'm the longest, but he's better looking."

After the convention at Baltimore he said to a delegation from the National Union League which came to congratulate him: "I do not allow myself to suppose that either the convention or the League has concluded to decide that I am either the greatest or best man in America, but rather . . . that it is not best to swap horses while crossing the river, and have further concluded that I am not so poor a horse that they might not make a botch of it trying to swap." All over the North this saying was caught up and placed on banners and transparencies—"Don't swap horses while crossing the stream."

When the campaign was over and his election was certain, Lincoln remembered the anxiety of Mrs. Lincoln. "Send the word right over to Madam; she will be more interested than I am."

## The Last Days of the War

When General Grant left the White House to take charge of the armies of the Union, Lincoln was satisfied that a man had come whom he could trust fully. Grant gave Lincoln his plans. They were never changed.

When Grant took the Army of the Potomac and plunged into the Wilderness, he ordered General Sherman to move against Atlanta.

While Grant was hammering away at Lee's army, Admiral Farragut entered Mobile Bay and broke the naval power of the Confederates.

The days of the Confederacy were numbered. The order had gone forth to take the government away from Richmond.

President Davis was gone, and the army of Lee was going southward to join the army of General Johnston.

One morning in April, 1865, Sheridan's cavalry stood across Lee's line of retreat. Lee could go no farther. He surrendered. A few days later Johnston surrendered to Sherman. The war was over.

Before the surrender Lincoln visited Grant's army at City Point. Here he had a restful stay of ten days right in the midst of the common soldiers he loved so well. Cheer upon cheer greeted him wherever he went. Here he was when the news came that Richmond had fallen.

"I want to see Richmond," Lincoln said. He went by the river in a twelve-oared barge to the capital of the Confederacy. Little Tad was with him. He took his son by the hand and, guarded by ten soldiers, walked through the crowds of shouting negroes to the center of the city. When he came to President Davis' residence, he went in. Some one said that Davis ought to be hanged. "Judge not,



*A reception in the East Room of the White House*

that ye be not judged," was his answer.

He went to the home of the famous General Pickett, who led the great Confederate charge at Gettysburg. "Is this where General Pickett lives?" he asked of Mrs. Pickett, who appeared, holding a baby in her arms. He told her who he was, and said, "I come not as President, but as George Pickett's friend, to ask about him and his family." He had known Pickett before the war, and in fact obtained for him a cadetship at West Point. What proof of the generous and kindly nature of the man!

Lincoln was at Grant's headquarters on the morning of the day Lee surrendered. When talking over the terms of peace, he said, "Get them to plowing once and gathering in their own little crops, eating pop corn at their own firesides, and you can't get them to shoulder a musket again for half a century."

It was a noble man who felt this way about the men who had fought for four years to destroy the Union.

## The Death of Abraham Lincoln

From the beginning of the war Lincoln had received letters containing threats to kill him.

He was good, and he thought all other people the same. He never armed himself, and usually went about the White House and the city unguarded.

The President was always glad when an opportunity came to rest. He seldom sought it at the theater, but on this April night "Our American Cousin" was to be played.

The President and Mrs. Lincoln arrived a bit late. The actors stopped, and the band struck up "Hail to the Chief." The whole audience rose and cheered, and the President bowed in return.

The play was begun again, and was nearly finished when the report of a pistol rang out. A man was seen to jump from the President's box to the stage. He caught his foot in the folds of a flag and fell on the stage, but rose again.



Swinging a knife in the air, he cried, "*Sic semper tyrannis*," then quickly fled. Some one shouted, "He has shot the President! Stop him! Stop him!"

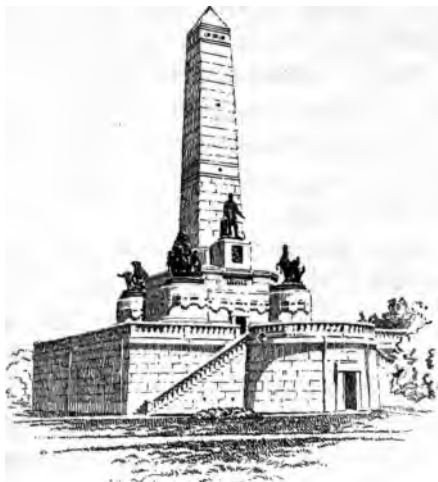
The President's head dropped forward, and his eyes closed. He was taken to a house across the street and laid upon a bed. A doctor was called, but the wound was mortal. The next morning he died, a little after seven o'clock.

The assassin was John Wilkes Booth, a half-crazed actor. He was hunted down and shot in a barn. Several members of Lincoln's Cabinet also were attacked. It seemed a plan to destroy the Government at one blow.

A great sorrow fell upon the land. Even in the South there were many who mourned Lincoln's death. Within an hour or so after he died Washington was shrouded with the signs of mourning. Mourning spread throughout the land. Strong men broke down and cried as if their hearts would break.

April 19 was given out as the day on

which the general funeral ceremonies were to be held—the day on which the



*The Lincoln monument at Springfield*

minutemen fell at Lexington. All over the nation the people gathered to mourn.

Along the route from Washington to Springfield every town and city begged that the funeral train might halt and the people be given an opportunity to show their affection for Lincoln.

Such scenes no funeral train had ever met as it passed slowly through the land. When finally Springfield was reached, Lincoln was laid to rest in a lovely spot in Oak Ridge. Here came the great and the good to honor him who was greatest and best, but who, tested by his own measure, would have counted himself least among the sons of men.

Bishop Simpson, the long-time friend, delivered a tender and beautiful oration. But chief among those that came to the funeral were the old friends who had lived in New Salem and Clary's Grove. They came to see their neighbor and friend, simple, honest, true Abraham Lincoln.

## A Chronology of the Life of Abraham Lincoln

AGE	DATE	EVENT
..	1809	<i>February 12</i> , Lincoln born near Hodgenville, Kentucky.
7	1816	Removes to Indiana near Gentryville.
8	1817	Helps his father build a cabin. Mother dies.
10	1819	Thomas Lincoln brings home new mother, Sally Bush Johnston.
11	1820	Lincoln goes to school (all together one
to	to	year) works for the neighbors, and reads
18	1827	incessantly.
19	1828	First trip to New Orleans.
21	1830	Removes to Illinois.
22	1831	Goes to New Salem as clerk in a store.
22	1831	Second trip to New Orleans; witnesses a slave auction.
23	1832	Candidate for the Legislature.
23	1832	Captain in Black Hawk War.
23	1832	Defeated for Legislature.
23	1832	With Berry, buys a store.
24	1833	Appointed postmaster by President Jackson.
24	1833	Appointed county surveyor by the Democrats.
25	1834	Studies law.
to	to	
27	1836	

AGE	DATE	EVENT
28	1837	Removes to Springfield and begins to practice law in earnest.
27	1836	Reelected to the Legislature.
to	to	
31	1840	
30	1839	First meets Douglas in debate.
31	1840	Stumps the state for Harrison.
33	1842	Marries Mary Todd.
33	1842	Forms law partnership with Judge Logan.
35	1844	Stumps Illinois and Indiana for his favorite, Henry Clay.
35	1844	Supports Baker for Congress, although he wanted the nomination himself.
37	1846	Elected to Congress.
39	1848	Advocates Taylor's election.
40	1849	Introduces bill into Congress for Compensated Abolition of Slaves in the District of Columbia.
41	1850	Practices law.
to	to	
45	1854	
45	1854	Attacks Douglas's defense of Kansas-Nebraska Bill.
47	1856	Stumps state for first Republican candidate for the Presidency.
48	1857	Attacks Dred Scott decision.
49	1858	Nominated for United States Senator by Republican State Convention.
49	1858	Makes a great speech, "A House Divided against Itself."
49	1858	Challenges Douglas to joint debate; the seven joint debates.

AGE	DATE	EVENT
50	1859	Receives many invitations to speak.
51	1860	Great speech in Cooper Institute.
51	1860	Nominated for President at Chicago.
51	1860	Elected President.
52	1861	Journey to Washington.
52	1861	Inauguration.
52	1861	Fort Sumter surrenders; Lincoln calls for troops to defend the Union; patriotic conduct of Douglas.
52	1861	Lincoln appoints McClellan commander of the Army of the Potomac.
52	1861	Southern ports blockaded. The "Trent" affair.
53	1862	Death of Willie Lincoln.
53	1862	Lincoln sends out the Emancipation Proclamation.
53	1862	Appoints Burnside to succeed McClellan.
54	1863	Emancipation Proclamation becomes a law.
54	1863	Lincoln appoints Hooker to succeed Burnside.
54	1863	Appoints Meade to succeed Hooker.
55	1864	Appoints Grant Lieutenant-General of the Army.
55	1864	Nominated for second term by the National Union party. Elected President.
56	1865	Lincoln Inaugurated.
56	1865	Visits Grant's army at City Point.
56	1865	Goes to Richmond.
56	1865	Assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.

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